

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF VICTIMS SERVICES CENTER OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Victim Services Center (VSC) of Montgomery County, Inc. on its 30th anniversary.

In 1974, a group of five women from Montgomery County, Pennsylvania organized VSC, then called Women Against Rape, due to concerns over the lack of a sensitive and uniform response to victims of sexual assault. As awareness of sexual assault grew, the need to recognize that both men and women are victims, and that both sexes can contribute to the solution, transformed the agency into what was known as the Rape Crisis Center. In 1985, additional services were added to support victims of other serious crimes, including a victim witness program. To reflect this expansion of services, the name of the organization was subsequently changed to Victim Services Center of Montgomery County, Inc. and it is thus known today.

Victim Services Center has become a comprehensive crime victims organization that provides free, confidential 24-hour crisis intervention, advocacy, and counseling service to victims of crime and safety education programs to schools from preschool to college. It likewise provides outstanding training services to professionals and law enforcement personnel.

Approaching nearly 30 years of service, Victim Services Center has achieved a exemplary reputation in Montgomery County for confidential, supportive services that have aided thousands of people seeking help. Without the presence of Victim Services Center in the community, crime victims would be left to fend for themselves through a maze of government agencies and court proceedings, while also having to cope with the trauma of criminal victimization.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in recognizing Victim Services Center of Montgomery County, Inc. on its 30th anniversary. The VSC's tremendous efforts in aiding victims of sexual assault and other crimes have truly made a difference in our community.

TRIBUTE TO DAVE CARLSON ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE CITY OF RIVERSIDE FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Fire Chief Dave Carlson

for his dedicated service to our country and our community. Mr. Carlson recently retired as the Fire Chief of the city of Riverside, California. He has protected our citizens as a warrior and fireman over a 39-year career in public service.

Dave grew up in Sacramento and graduated from Luther Burbank High School in 1966. Two weeks later he enlisted in the Navy to pursue his childhood dream of becoming a "frogman." Dave graduated from Underwater Demolition/SEAL training and went on to serve two tours of duty in Vietnam. In 1972 he became a firefighter in Santa Barbara County, California. Dave worked his way through the ranks and became a Battalion Chief in 1981. Constantly striving for self improvement, Dave attended college on his days off. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Public Service Management and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of La Verne. In 1991, Dave became the Fire Chief in the City of Norco, California. In 1994, he became the Deputy Fire Chief of the City of Riverside and in 1996 he was appointed Fire Chief.

Dave Carlson is always looking for innovative ways to provide better public safety service to the community. In 1999 he implemented a paramedic program through a joint partnership with American Medical Response and the Riverside County Medical Services Agency. This partnership resulted in a higher level of emergency care and faster emergency response at no cost to the City of Riverside's general fund.

Throughout his career, Dave has served in professional and public organizations. He has always been active in the California Fire Chiefs' Organization, serving a two-year term as President from 2000 to 2002. He is also the Chair of the Department of Corrections Citizens' Advisory Committee for the California Rehabilitation Center. In 2004, Dave's accomplishments were justly recognized when he received the Distinguished Public Service Career Award from the City of Riverside and was named the "Fire Chief of the Year" by the California Fire Chiefs' Association.

Fire Chiefs such as Dave Carlson provide a remarkable level of protection to our communities. They work just as hard at preventing fires and accidents as they do in responding to them. Dave has had an exceptional career keeping our community safe. He has earned my many thanks and I wish him great success in all his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING ALOK WADHWAN

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alok Wadhvani for his award of Best Student Scenic Design in the 11th annual High School Music Theatre HONORS awards in San Jose.

This year, over 25 Bay Area High Schools competed in 10 unique categories. Judges from the American Musical Theatre were sent to each school to watch and evaluate performances. Judges were instructed to evaluate the quality of each production and performance, while keeping in mind each school's budget and available resources. This annual competition awarded four students who reside within California's 16th district.

Alok is a student from Valley Christian High School. He won the Best Student Scenic Design award for his work in "Godspell".

The High School Music Theatre HONORS awards promote artistic creativity in a way that is vital to a youth's development. The performances that these youth stage are extremely labor intensive, and promote discipline, team work, and dedication. High School Performing Arts programs are generally underfunded and have been greatly reduced in recent years. I recognize the hard work, time, and energy that these students and teachers put into these productions.

I am proud to stand here today and recognize Alok for his accomplishments. I urge him and all students to continue to take interest in the performing arts.

INSURANCE OPTION HAS WORKERS PAY MORE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring the following article on associated health plans to the attention of my colleagues. We must continue to work to bring health care coverage to the more than 45 million Americans who are uninsured. This article clearly shows that associated health plans are not the solution. I will continue to push for the adoption of a truly comprehensive and universal, single-payer health care program.

[From the Los Angeles Times, May 23, 2005]

INSURANCE OPTION HAS WORKERS PAY MORE

(By Ricardo Alonso-Zaldivar)

For years, they were the kinds of health insurance plans one found at small businesses or among the self-employed, plans that had huge deductibles and required workers to pay a lot of medical bills themselves—such as allergy shots, chest X-rays and the cost of a new baby.

They weren't the policies most people preferred, but they were the best some people could afford, better than no insurance at all.

Now, as medical costs keep climbing, those high-deductible plans are spreading to the giant corporations that have long been the backbone of traditional job-related, low deductible health insurance. And if the trend continues, it could reshape the medical insurance landscape and sharply redistribute costs, risks and responsibilities for many of the 160 million Americans with private coverage.

A number of large employers, including defense contractor Northrop Grumman Corp.,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the Wendy's hamburger chain, high-tech conglomerate Fujitsu and office supply retailer Staples Inc., are adding what they call consumer-directed health plans to their menus of insurance options.

In a recent survey, 26 percent of large employers said they would offer such plans in 2006, up from 14 percent this year. Another survey found that about half of large companies were considering adding them.

A few companies are pursuing a "full replacement" strategy that leaves workers with no other choice. But even where such plans are optional, they are proving popular with workers who might once have scorned a plan that could leave them with several thousand dollars in medical bills each year. At Fujitsu, about half of 5,000 eligible U.S. employees have signed up for the option.

What suddenly makes such plans attractive to workers is that many are caught in a painful bind: In recent years, pay increases have been small at best. At the same time, employers have been requiring workers to pay a larger and larger share of their health insurance premiums. It's not uncommon for higher payroll deductions for health care to more than offset any pay raises.

With the high-deductible plan, workers pay lower monthly premiums and their employers commonly help them build up a special savings account to cushion the impact of a larger annual deductible. The accounts are controlled by the employees, which has led insurers and employers to label the plans "consumer-directed."

Even if high-deductible plans offer immediate relief for many workers, and big cost savings to employers, the allure may not last. And the plans may do little or nothing to solve the basic problem of soaring health costs.

"You're beginning to see a lot of growth in these plans, not because they're going to solve America's health care challenge, but because it's a way for employers to cut their out-of-control benefit costs," said Robert Laszewski, a consultant to health insurance companies. "Any time an employer can raise deductibles from \$200 to \$1,000, it is going to reduce their costs. But will it reduce U.S. health costs generally? The jury is still really out on that."

The reason, he said, is that 10 percent of the people—the sickest Americans—account for 70 percent of total health care costs. "Once the sick people have gone through their deductible, they're back to regular health plan—the incentives for them don't really change," Laszewski said.

"This is a cost shift device, and not a means to fundamentally control health care costs."

Moreover, the willingness of workers to sign up for less generous plans may change over time, as workers and their families get older and more likely to encounter serious medical costs.

"To make these plans truly work, they have to work for the sickest population—it can't be a plan that only works for the healthy," said Joe Walshe, a principal with the consulting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers. "It's very difficult, but that's where the challenge is."

In the meantime, the short-term appeal of high-deductible plans is easy to see. Employees get a bit more take-home pay. Employers get some relief from higher health care costs.

For big companies, the new plans represent an upfront savings of about 10 percent and the expectation of more gradual cost increases over time. Last year, large employers spent an average of \$5,584 per worker for coverage through a high-deductible plan, compared with \$6,181 for a worker in the typical preferred provider network, according to

a Mercer Human Resource Consulting survey.

Employers say the new plans are not designed primarily to shift costs to workers. The ultimate goal, they say, is to cut health care costs by changing consumers' behavior—teaching them to be more cost-conscious about things such as generic drugs.

"In three to five years, every company is going to offer them," predicted Alexander Domaszewicz, a Mercer senior consultant based in Newport Beach. "People are going to be coming over from companies that have them, and they are going to want them."

When the city of Las Vegas began offering a consumer-directed plan to 2,200 eligible employees last year, 60 percent signed up.

"When I was growing up in the 1950s, no one had insurance for day-to-day going to the doctor," said Victoria Robinson, the city's insurance manager. "You covered those expenses yourself and had major medical if you had to have your appendix out or something like that."

"It's almost like going back to the future," she said.

Yes and no, analysts say.

When employers began offering health insurance, it was a way to attract workers by offering them something of value without directly raising their pay. Today, in purely economic terms, shifting insurance costs to workers amounts to reducing compensation.

Although workers may think they will only face the high deductible if serious illness strikes, those receiving routine medical care can also face fairly hefty medical bills.

Many of the new plans "confront people with a lot more cost sharing than they are currently experiencing," said Sherry Glied, a health policy professor at Columbia University. "If you are the kind of person who can't keep \$2,000 in an account, it could be a really bad idea for you."

The experience of Mark Pung, a general contractor in Grand Rapids, Mich., shows why such plans can be enticing.

The father of four children, Pung says he would never dream of going without health insurance. Yet he and his wife, Dana, paid for the births of their two youngest children out their own pockets—\$3,600 for each healthy baby girl. That's because their medical insurance carries a \$5,000 deductible for the family.

Since their premiums are \$180 a month, or \$2,160 a year, they could find themselves with as much as \$7,160 in out-of-pocket health care costs in a single year.

On the other hand, the Pungs face much lower monthly premiums than they would have to pay for a traditional plan: between \$800 and \$1,400 a month for family coverage—at least \$9,600 a year in premiums alone.

Initially, Pung said, "I felt more exposure. But it wasn't enough to stop me from doing it, because I could run the numbers and see how much sense it made."

The numbers would not be so dramatic for workers in company plans. Employers help pay premiums and the deductibles are lower. In 2004, the median deductible for a family in a company-provided plan was \$3,000. The employer contributed \$1,200 toward that through a special account, according to Mercer, leaving the employee responsible for \$1,800.

Proponents of consumer-directed health care say another advantage of the plans is that higher deductibles encourage consumers to shop smarter.

The two major firms that administer the plans for large employers—Lumenos Inc. in Alexandria, Va., and Definity Health Corp. in Minneapolis—also supply employees with ideas for saving money, online health care information and related services.

"The key thing is the whole concept of getting the consumer engaged," said Doug

Kronenberg, chief strategy officer for Lumenos. "We've got to see behavior change for us as a country to be able to address the escalating health care costs we've got."

When patients have no "skin in the game," he said, they don't think about how to save.

In Washington, Republican policy-makers have encouraged the trend toward high deductible insurance plans.

Congress expanded tax-sheltered medical accounts and renamed them health savings accounts, or HSAs, in the 2003 Medicare prescription drug bill. A year earlier, the Treasury Department had quietly issued a ruling that enabled employers to offer a plan known as a health reimbursement arrangement.

The savings accounts are available to people who buy health coverage with deductibles of at least \$1,000 for individuals and \$2,000 for families. Employees and employers can make pretax contributions to cover the deductible. The accounts belong to employees, who can take them along when they switch jobs. With reimbursement accounts, employees don't own the health care accounts. They can roll over unused balances at the end of the year, but they cannot take their accounts with them if they switch jobs.

In a typical reimbursement account, an employer would create an account for an employee and family, and commit to cover the first \$2,000 of their health care costs. The employee would then be responsible for the next \$1,000.

After that, traditional health coverage would kick in, with the policy paying 90 percent of the costs and the employee 10 percent. Both the reimbursement and savings accounts have caps on how much an individual can be required to pay in a year.

Still, financial incentives can change—especially as individuals realize they need greater levels of health care.

"The real concern is that people will want to switch out of these plans when they get sick," said Glied, the Columbia professor. "Then it will be very expensive for employers."

HONORING TRUETT OTT

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Truett Ott, former Florida State Senator and District Court of Appeals Judge, whose passing last month was a great loss to our community.

Always a dedicated public servant, Truett appropriately began his career by serving his country as a pilot in World War II and later as an officer at Tampa Bay's MacDill Air Force Base during the Korean War. But Truett would become better known for his work in the field of law—a career which he launched by graduating with honors from the University of Florida Law School. He joined Tampa's Carlton Fields law firm before founding a firm of his own in 1956.

Just ten years later, Truett set his mind to running for the State Senate and beat an incumbent to win his seat. Among his many notable accomplishments in office, Truett was a force behind legislation to improve our state's vocational schools and he convinced his colleagues to support a law providing judges discretion in sentencing for certain first-time drug offenders while increasing penalties for repeat

offenders and dealers. Truett became known as a uniquely fair but independent minded lawmaker—a reputation which he would carry throughout his career.

In 1972, Truett returned to the full-time practice of law, but just four years later he chose to run for a seat on Florida's Second District Court of Appeal. He not only won the seat, but was reelected in 1982 with a nearly 90 percent approval rating in a Florida Bar Association poll. When Truett retired from the bench in 1986, he was serving as Chief Judge.

Truett Ott's service to his community did not end at the office door. A faithful servant of God, Truett taught Sunday school for 55 years and gave back to others through his work with a host of service organizations including the Boy Scouts of America, YMCA, United Way, Metropolitan Ministries, the Billy Graham Crusade, the Boys Club and the Pike County Association.

Truett Ott was a role model for us all. On behalf of the entire Tampa Bay community, I would like to thank him for his service and extend my deepest sympathies to his family. His contributions and his character will not be forgotten and set high standards for generations to come.

HONORING CONOR MICHAEL
O'ROURKE

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Conor Michael O'Rourke of Arlington, Virginia. Conor has not only achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America; he has pursued his accomplishments with a sincere commitment to the fundamental ideals of improving our community. As a member of Troop 50 in the National Capital Area Council, Conor has exemplified the finest qualities of leadership and citizenship in earning Boy Scouts' most prestigious award. He is currently a junior at Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School in Arlington, Virginia and is the older son of Mary Anne and Michael O'Rourke.

At Troop 50, Conor has provided leadership in a variety of positions. He has led his troop as Patrol Leader (twice), Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, and High Adventure Assistant Crew Chief. In addition, he served for several years as Den Chief, in which he was a role model and guide to a group of Cub Scouts at St. Thomas More School in Arlington.

As a Boy Scout, Conor has trekked through the mountains of New Mexico on horseback, explored underground caves, sailed the Florida Keys and went on numerous camping trips. He has earned 28 merit badges and four religious awards, including the Boy Scout Ad Altare Dei. He is truly an exemplary Scout.

For his Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project, Conor directed three dozen volunteers, who donated over 140 hours of labor to the Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation for the construction of a new park trail.

Because of his dedication and service to the community, I have great expectations for Conor—he will be among the young men who leads our Nation through the 21st. Century.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Conor Michael O'Rourke for achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout, and wish him luck on all of his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING RUTH ANN
NORTON

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to congratulate Ruth Ann Norton, whose important work in preventing lead poisoning has received national acclaim. Ms. Norton recently received the Nation's top community health honor, a 2005 Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership award.

Ms. Norton is one of 10 recipients nationwide recognized for their outstanding contributions to community health. As part of the award, Ms. Norton will receive a grant of more than \$100,000 to augment her efforts.

As recently as 2002, one out of every 25 children nationwide was diagnosed with lead poisoning. The City of Baltimore, where Ms. Norton's efforts are focused, has among the highest numbers of pre-1940 rental properties in the Nation—and buildings constructed in that timeframe often contain lead paint. The children living in these buildings often develop asthma or lead poisoning that can cause serious disabilities and impairments.

Unwilling to accept the fact that children are exposed to hazardous environments, especially in their own homes, Ms. Norton left the business world to become Executive Director of the Coalition to End Childhood Lead Poisoning in 1994. She transformed the Coalition from a one-person organization to a 30-person primary prevention organization that has provided direct program services to thousands of at-risk clients. The majority of those helped by the Coalition are single, African-American mothers and pregnant women living in high risk and low-income communities in Baltimore.

Under her leadership, the Coalition has played a significant role in reducing childhood lead poisoning in Baltimore by 91 percent in less than a decade. This success is the result of preventative strategies and public policy changes advocated for by the Coalition, such as requiring lead reductions in housing stock, providing relocation opportunities for families living in hazardous buildings, and testing children for lead paint poisoning. The Coalition has also been credited with playing a primary role in the dramatic decline in lead-poisoned children statewide—from 14,000 in 1993 to less than 2,000 in 2003.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Ms. Norton's dedication to improving the health of Maryland's children, and to congratulate her for this well-deserved Community Health Leadership award.

TRIBUTE TO JULIE PUENTES

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Julie Puentes for her

dedicated service to the people of Orange County, California. Ms. Puentes has demonstrated a commitment to excellence and has made our community a better place to live.

Julie Puentes is the Executive Vice President of Public Affairs for the Orange County Business Council, a countywide organization comprised primarily of Orange County's largest employers and small businesses dedicated to Orange County's economic vitality. She serves as a member of the organization's executive management team and manages the Business Council's Advocacy program. She coordinates the Business Council Investor lobbying efforts which are intended to foster a positive business climate and preserve Orange County's quality of life. During her time at the OCBC, Julie has done an exemplary job of building relationships, particularly with Orange County's federal, state and local representatives. She also works closely with other chambers of commerce and regional economic development organizations.

Before she joined the Orange County Business Council professional staff Ms. Puentes was the owner of JFCConsulting, a public affairs consulting firm. Her firm focused on engaging the business community in the development of public policy and more business-friendly environmental regulation. From 1978–1991, Ms. Puentes served as Chief of Staff to Senator Marian Bergeson, culminating a 20-year career in public service for five state legislators.

Ms. Puentes served in the Wilson Administration as a member of the State Job Training Coordinating Council (now the state Workforce Investment Board) and the Governor's School-to-Career Advisory Council. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Orange County Public Affairs Association and Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse, and is a member of the California Chamber of Commerce Advocacy Council.

We rely upon citizens like Julie Puentes to sustain the spirit of our communities. I have relied on her advice in addressing various water and transportation challenges facing our community and state. Julie Puentes has earned my many thanks and I wish her great success in all her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING KELLY BLACK

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kelly Black for her award as Best Female Performer in the 11th annual High School Music Theatre HONORS awards in San Jose.

This year, over 25 Bay Area High Schools competed in 10 unique categories. Judges from the American Musical Theatre were sent to each school to watch and evaluate performances. Judges were instructed to evaluate the quality of each production and performance, while keeping in mind each school's budget and available resources. This annual competition awarded four students who reside within California's 16th district.

Kelly is a student from Oak Grove High School. She won the Best Female Performer award for her role of Velma Kelly in "Chicago". Kelly will receive a scholarship to the

American Musical Theatre Artists Institute, a nine-week intensive professional training program.

The High School Music Theatre HONORS awards promote artistic creativity in a way that is vital to a youth's development. The performances that these youth stage are extremely labor intensive, and promote discipline, team work, and dedication. High School Performing Arts programs are generally underfunded and have been greatly reduced in recent years. I recognize the hard work, time, and energy that these students and teachers put into these productions.

I am proud to stand here today and recognize Kelly for her accomplishments. I urge her and all students to continue to take interest in the performing arts.

HONORING RABBI MICHAEL DATZ

HON. RAY LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments and services of Rabbi Michael Datz of Springfield, Illinois for his thirteen years of spiritual guidance and leadership.

Rabbi Datz draws on his extraordinary life experiences to provide insight to his congregation at the Temple B'rith Shalom. He has lived in South Africa, the Netherlands, and Australia, as well, his birth-state of Texas. Yet, the community of Springfield is of profound importance to him. His extensive involvement in numerous religious and civic community organizations greatly benefits his adopted home. He is a board member of the Springfield Board of Jewish Education, the Springfield Jewish Federation, the Central Illinois Food Bank, the Springfield Liturgical Arts Council, the Greater Springfield Interfaith Association, and he is Chairman of the Dept. of Community Relations of the City of Springfield. In addition to being a dedicated servant of the community, the rabbi is a lawyer, a children's author, a husband, and a father of two.

Yet above and beyond these accomplishments, the people who know the rabbi best testify that his courage and his sense of humor are traits that make him an excellent community leader. The people of Springfield and the members of the Temple B'rith Shalom are pleased and honored to have Rabbi Michael Datz as a servant of their community, and I am pleased to honor him on the occasion of a special dinner in recognition of his service.

RECOGNITION OF THE AMHERST COMMUNITY HISTORY MURAL

HON. JOHN W. OLVER

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedication of the Amherst Community History Mural at West Cemetery. The event marks the completion of a community-wide effort by the Amherst Historical Commission to raise funds and install a mural on the

back wall of the Carriage Shops which abut historic West Cemetery in Amherst.

West Cemetery is Amherst's oldest burying ground and was laid out in 1730 for settlers of the East District of Hadley. It is a true historical site that represents some of Amherst's original unchanged landscape, which today would still be recognizable to the early settlers who lie there next to their fellow farmers, mill workers, servants, soldiers, professors and poets.

The Amherst Community History Mural addresses five aspects of Amherst's history: farming, literature, domestic life, education and the military, and industry and economic life. Notable figures portrayed in the mural standing on the balcony of the Amherst Hotel include Robert Gilbert "Gil" Roberts, a member of the New Black Eagle Jazz Band of Boston who also played with Louis Annstrong and Josephine Baker; Chief Justice Harlan Fiske Stone; Peter Merzbach, a 20th-century obstetrician; the Reverend David Parsons, Amherst's first minister; and Charley Thompson, a janitor and friend to Amherst College students during the 1800s.

Again I congratulate Amherst, my home town, on creating this mural that honors and remembers the great history of our community.

TRIBUTE TO DANIEL J. MASIELLO

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life and memory of a great Western New Yorker, Mr. Daniel J. Masiello, a remarkable man dedicated to public service, his family and his nation.

Born on the West Side of Buffalo in 1913, as a young man Mr. Masiello enlisted in the United States Army and went on to defend this Country's freedom overseas for five years during World War II.

A hard-working man, Mr. Masiello was a member of Teamsters Local 375 as an employee of Dorn's Transportation and went on to work in the City of Buffalo Streets Department for 27 years, eventually serving as the department's Supervisor.

Mr. Masiello was a devoted family man, married to Bridget DeGeorge for 59 years, they enjoyed spending time with their seven children, fourteen grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

For 91 years the Buffalo and Western New York community was fortunate to have Daniel J. Masiello as a trusted friend and I am pleased to honor his memory today.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES E. MIZELL II

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the late James E. Mizell II for his dedicated service to our country and community. Born in February 1948, in Bakersfield, Jim was a fourth generation Californian

and remained devoted to the betterment of the state throughout his personal and professional life. Growing up in Taft, in the San Joaquin Valley, Jim developed an early appreciation for the importance of water resources to farmers and businessmen living in a desert. At the age of 14, he moved to Orange County and, soon after, met his future wife Pamela Mosier while attending Corona Del Mar High School.

After his marriage to Pam, Jim was deployed by the United States Navy to South East Asia aboard the aircraft carrier USS *Midway*. After fulfilling his military duty, he returned to Orange Coast College, finished his Bachelor of Science in Economics at Loyola Marymount and received an MBA from the Anderson School of Business at UCLA. Jim's interest in California's growth led him to specialize in real estate development. Jim also leaves a legacy of balanced and practical environmental stewardship, business and financial acumen, as well as decade of leadership as an elected director of the Santa Margarita Water District.

Jim passed away on January 14th of this year while taking his morning run. He is survived by his wife and four boys.

Jim was fascinated by issues that shaped the future of "his State". He understood the complex issues which impacted Southern California's ocean, in which he loved to surf and sail, and the beauty of Northern California's wilderness where he hiked and skied. He understood California's vital farming communities, and the necessary growth of the housing market to a growing economy.

Jim was a man of integrity who believed in the goodness of people, and that most individuals are motivated by a sincere desire to accomplish positive results. However, he also believed man is limited by his ability to appreciate the opposing side of an argument. It is this dichotomy which Jim tried to bridge. His favorite adage was, "No information is bad information." He urged those around him to embrace knowledge as friendly even if it was not "good" news, because the only bad information is no information at all. Jim could and would play "Devil's Advocate" to advance another's understanding of the other side of an issue, to move groups toward agreement. He always sought a compromise because he believed that there should be no "loser." The example he set is one we can all learn from.

It was Jim's sincere desire that each of us contribute the best of ourselves today in order to prepare California for a better tomorrow. Jim Mizell served his family, country and his community with distinction and honor and I am truly proud to have called him a friend.

RECOGNIZING TOMMY JERNIGAN

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Tommy Jernigan for his award of Best Student Lighting Design in the 11th annual High School Music Theatre HONORS awards in San Jose.

This year, over 25 Bay Area High Schools competed in 10 unique categories. Judges from the American Musical Theatre were sent to each school to watch and evaluate performances. Judges were instructed to evaluate the

quality of each production and performance, while keeping in mind each school's budget and available resources. This annual competition awarded four students who reside within California's 16th district.

Tommy is a student from Live Oak High School. He won the Best Student Lighting Design award for his work in "Fiddler on the Roof".

The High School Music Theatre HONORS awards promote artistic creativity in a way that is vital to a youth's development. The performances that these youth stage are extremely labor intensive, and promote discipline, team work, and dedication. High School Performing Arts programs are generally underfunded and have been greatly reduced in recent years. I recognize the hard work, time, and energy that these students and teachers put into these productions.

I am proud to stand here today and recognize Tommy for his accomplishments. I urge him and all students to continue to take interest in the performing arts.

FINANCING DRUG RESEARCH: WHAT ARE THE ISSUES?

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring the following article to the attention of my colleagues. The article details the reasons that the U.S. pays excessively high prices for prescription drugs. The Free Market Drug Act gets at the heart of the problem outlined below.

[From the Center for Economic and Policy Research, Sept. 21, 2004.]

FINANCING DRUG RESEARCH: WHAT ARE THE ISSUES?

(By Dean Baker)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rising drug prices are placing an ever larger burden on family budgets and the economy. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services estimates 2004 expenditures at \$207 billion (more than \$700 per person), and projects that annual spending will grow to more than \$500 billion by 2013 (more than \$1,600 per person). The immediate cause of high drug prices is government granted patent monopolies, which allow drug companies to charge prices that are often 400 percent, or more, above competitive market prices.

Patent monopolies are one possible mechanism for financing prescription drug research. Rapidly increasing drug costs, and the economic distortions they imply, have led researchers to consider alternative mechanisms for financing drug research. This paper outlines some of the key issues in evaluating patents and other mechanisms for financing prescription drug research. It then assesses how four proposed alternatives to the patent system perform by these criteria.

The most obvious problem stemming from patent protection for prescription drugs is the huge gap it creates between the cost of producing drugs and the price. In addition, to making drugs unaffordable in many cases, high drug prices also lead to enormous economic inefficiency.

Patent monopolies cause economic distortions in the same way that trade tariffs or quotas lead to economic distortions, but the size of the distortions are far greater. While

trade barriers rarely increase prices by more than 10 to 20 percent, drug patents increase prices by an average of 300-400 percent above the competitive market price, and in some cases the increase is more than 1000 percent. Simple calculations suggest that the deadweight efficiency losses from patent protection are roughly comparable in size to the amount of research currently supported by the patent system—approximately \$25 billion in 2004. Projections of rapidly rising research costs, and therefore a growing gap between price and marginal cost, imply that the deadweight loss due to drug patents will exceed \$100 billion a year by 2013.

As economic theory predicts, government granted patent monopolies lead not only to deadweight efficiency losses due to the gap between the patent protected price and the competitive market price, but also to a variety of other distortions. Among these distortions are:

(1) Excessive marketing expenses, as firms seek to pursue the monopoly profits associated with patent protection—data from the industry suggests that marketing costs are currently comparable to the amount of money spent on research; (2) wasted research spending into duplicative drugs—industry data indicates that roughly two thirds of research spending goes to developing duplicative drugs rather than drugs that represent qualitative breakthroughs over existing drugs; (3) the neglect of research that is not likely to lead to patentable drugs; (4) concealing research findings in ways that impede the progress of research, and prevent the medical profession and the public from becoming aware of evidence that some drugs may not be effective, or could even be harmful.

In addition, the patent system for financing prescription drug research poses large and growing problems in an international context. Disputes over patent rules have increasingly dominated trade negotiations. Furthermore, problems of enforcement have persisted even after agreements have been reached. These problems are likely to worsen through time, as the pharmaceutical industry seeks to increase the amount of money it extracts from other countries through patent rents.

This paper examines four alternatives to the patent system:

(1) A proposal by Tim Hubbard and James Love for a mandatory employer-based research fee to be distributed through intermediaries to researchers (Love 2003); (2) A proposal by Aidan Hollis for zero-cost compulsory licensing patents, in which the patent holder is compensated based on the rated quality of life improvement generated by the drug, and the extent of its use (Hollis 2004); (3) A proposal by Michael Kremer for an auction system in which the government purchases most drug patents and places them in the public domain (Kremer 1998); and (4) A proposal by Representative Dennis Kucinich to finance pharmaceutical research through a set of competing publicly supported research centers (Kucinich 2004).

All four of these proposals finance prescription drugs in ways that allow most drugs to be sold in a competitive market, without patent monopolies. These proposals also would eliminate many of the economic distortions created by the patent system.

These proposals, along with other plausible alternatives to the patent system, deserve serious consideration. Current projections for drug spending imply that patent supported prescription drug research will lead to ever larger distortions through time. For this reason, it is important to consciously select the best system for financing prescription drug research, not to just accept the patent system due to inertia.

HONORING ANN LOWRY MURPHEY

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Ann Lowry Murphey, a tireless public servant who lost her struggle with cancer last month.

Ann truly left no stone unturned in her quest to improve the Tampa Bay community. She energetically led a host of charitable and community organizations, and in attempting to highlight Ann's causes, any tribute will inevitably fail to recognize all of her contributions.

A faithful servant of God, Ann was a long-time parishioner and member of the vestry of St. John's Episcopal Church. A supporter of the arts, Ann was active with The Tampa Philharmonic and The Museum Society at the University of Tampa. As a successful businesswoman, she served on the board of First Citizens Bank and Barnett Bank of Tampa and as Vice President of Murphey Capital. Ann worked on the Judicial Nominating Commission for the 13th Circuit and was on the board of governors of the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce. And Ann never just participated in any activities—she was a supreme doer and always a leader.

Throughout her years, she was president and Sustainer of the Year of The Junior League of Tampa, president of the Lowry Family Foundation and served on the board of directors for The H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute. And in 1992, for all her hard work, the Tampa Civitan Club gave her the Citizen of the Year Award.

But above all these contributions, Ann will be best remembered for her work on behalf of children—in particular, her efforts to transform The Children's Home. Whether she was serving as the organization's president of the board of directors, chairwoman of the board of trustees, associate director or director of development, Ann was constantly working not only to improve the quality of care that The Children's Home provides, but also to spend as much time as she could with the children who depend on these services. For all her efforts, it was fitting that last year Voices for Children chose Ann as the first recipient of its Guardian Angel Award.

Through all her work, Ann was an unstoppable, passionate force for change. There were no bounds to her compassion and generosity. She was truly a blessing to the whole community.

On behalf of all of those who benefited so greatly from her tireless efforts, I would like to extend my deepest sympathies to Ann's loved ones. Ann shared so much with us. We can only try to follow in her footsteps and do our best to live up to her very high standards.

HONORING MS. BETTY B. MICHALIGA

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Betty B. Michaliga, a resident of Virginia's 8th Congressional District

that I am proud to represent. Ms. Michaliga has contributed greatly to our high quality of life in Northern Virginia. Specifically, she has distinguished herself with exceptionally meritorious achievements in public service to this Nation by serving the United States Army for over thirty-four years.

In 1971, Ms. Michaliga began her superior career as a United States Army Civil Service employee in the Headquarters, United States Army Corps of Engineers. Because of her demonstrated abilities, she moved in 1983 to the Army Secretariat in the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations and Housing), Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations and Environment). Currently Ms. Michaliga is a Program Analyst responsible for developing and monitoring the legislative process and Congressional reporting requirements for Army installations.

Throughout her career, Ms. Michaliga has provided outstanding advice, and sound professional judgment on significant issues that affected both the Army and the Congress. Her actions and counsel were invaluable to Army leaders as they considered the impact of important issues, and her dedication to accomplishing the Army's mission has been extraordinary. Mr. Speaker, Ms. Michaliga has been a truly outstanding career civil servant and will be missed by the United States Army.

THE PATENT ACT OF 2005

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I join Representative SMITH (TX), BOUCHER, GOODLATTE, LOFGREN and SCHIFF in introducing the Patent Act of 2005 (PA Act). Introduction of this legislation follows the acknowledgment by multiple sources that the current patent system is flawed. The release of the Patent and Trademark Office's Twenty-First Century Strategic Plan, the Federal Trade Commission's report entitled "To Promote Innovation: the Proper Balance of Competition and Patent Law and Policy," the National Research Council's compilation of articles "A Patent System for the 21st Century" and an economic analysis of patent law in a book titled *Innovation and Its Discontents* all speak to the challenges facing the patent system today. These accounts make a number of recommendations for increasing patent quality and ensuring that patent protection promotes, rather than inhibits, economic growth and scientific progress. Consistent with the goals and recommendations of those reports, the PA Act contains a number of provisions designed to improve patent quality, deter abusive practices by unscrupulous patent holders, and provide meaningful, low-cost alternatives to litigation for challenging the patent validity. Additionally, the PA Act begins to harmonize U.S. patent law with those of foreign countries.

I firmly believe that robust patent protection promotes innovation. However, I also believe that the patent system is strongest, and that incentives for innovation are greatest, when patents protect only those patents that are truly inventive. When functioning properly, the patent system should encourage and enable inventors to push the boundaries of knowledge

and possibility. If the patent system allows questionable patents to issue and does not provide adequate safeguards against patent abuses, the system may stifle innovation and interfere with competitive market forces.

This bill represents our latest perspectives in an ongoing discussion about legislative solutions to patent quality concerns, patent litigation abuses and patent harmonization. We have considered the multitude of comments received on prior patent bills as well as the more recent subcommittee print. We acknowledge that the problems are difficult and, as yet, without agreed-upon solutions. It is clear, however, that introduction of this legislation will focus and advance the discussion. It is also clear that the problems with the patent system have been exacerbated by a decrease in patent quality and an increase in litigation abuses. With or without consensus, Congress must act soon to address these problems.

Thus, we introduce this bill in the beginning of this Congress with the intent of framing the debate and with every intention of passing legislation in the 109th Congress.

The bill contains a number of initiatives designed to improve patent quality, limit litigation abuses, and harmonize U.S. patent law with those of foreign countries, thereby ensuring that patents are positive forces in the marketplace. I will highlight a number of them below.

Section 3 alters the conditions for patentability. Currently, the U.S. grants patents to whomever is "first to invent." The bill amends this standard so that the "first inventor to file" is entitled to the ownership of a patent. This distinction encourages inventors to file immediately, enabling the invention to enter the public realm more quickly. Additionally, this modification will bring U.S. patent laws into harmony with the patent law in many foreign countries.

Section 6 addresses the unfair incentives currently existing for patent holders who indiscriminately issue licensing letters. Patent holders frequently assert that another party is using a patented invention and for a fee, offer to grant a license for such use. Current law does little to dissuade patent holders from mailing such licensing letters. Frequently these letters are vague and fail to identify the patent being infringed and the manner of infringement. In fact, the law tacitly promotes this strategy since a recipient, upon notice of the letter, may be liable for treble damages as a willful infringer. Section 6 addresses this situation by ensuring that recipients of licensing letters will not be exposed to liability for willful infringement unless the letter specifically states the acts of infringement and identifies each particular claim and each product that the patent owners believes have been infringed.

Section 7 is designed to address the negative effect on innovation created by patent "trolls." We have learned of countless situations in which patent holders, making no effort to commercialize their inventions, lurk in the shadows until another party has invested substantial resources in a business or product that may infringe on the unutilized invention. The patent troll then steps out of the shadows and demands that the alleged infringer pay a significant licensing fee to avoid an infringement suit. The alleged infringer often feels compelled to pay almost any price named by the patent troll because, under current law, a permanent injunction issues automatically upon a finding of infringement. Issuance of a

permanent injunction would, in turn, cause the alleged infringer to lose the substantial investment made in the allegedly infringing business or product.

While we may question their motives, we do not question the right of patent trolls to sue for patent infringement, obtain damages, and seek a permanent injunction. However, the issuance of a permanent injunction should not be granted automatically upon a finding of infringement. Rather, when deciding whether to issue a permanent injunction, courts should weigh all the equities, including for example, the "unclean hands" of the patent trolls, the failure to commercialize the patented invention, the social utility of the infringing activity, and the loss of invested resources by the infringer. After weighing the equities, the court may still decide to issue a permanent injunction, but at least the court will have ensured that the injunction serves the public interest. Section 7 accomplishes this goal.

Section 8 allows the Director of the USPTO to establish regulations limiting the circumstances under which a patent applicant may file a continuation application. Unfortunately, current practice guiding continuation applications is prone to abuse. There are limited restrictions specifying the circumstances under which an applicant can broaden the claims described in the patent application and still retain the original filing date. This practice may enable the applicant to claim the priority rights to another's invention by appropriating that new invention as an expansion of the claims in the original application. By authorizing the Director to change current policy on continuation applications, the bill tasks the PTO with tackling current abuses in the application process.

Section 9 creates a post-grant opposition procedure. In certain limited circumstances, opposition allows parties to challenge a granted patent through an expeditious and less costly alternative to litigation. In addition, Section 9 provides a severely needed fix for the inter partes re-examination procedure, which provides third parties a limited opportunity to request that the PTO Director re-examine an issued patent. The current limitations on the inter partes re-examination process restricts its utility so drastically that it has been employed only a handful of times. Section 9 increases the utility of this re-examination process by relaxing its estoppel provisions. Further, it expands the scope of the re-examination procedure to include redress for all patent applications regardless of when filed.

Section 10 permits patent examiners, to consider certain materials within a limited time frame submitted by third parties regarding a pending patent application. Allowing such third party submissions will increase the likelihood that examiners are cognizant of the most relevant "prior art," thereby constituting a front-end solution for strengthening patent quality.

Other provisions include an expansion of prior user rights, publication of all application at 18 months, limitation on the calculation of damages to the value of the invention, and changes to the duty of candor defense and elimination of the best mode requirement.

When considering these provisions together, we believe that this bill provides the comprehensive reform necessary for the patent system to achieve its primary goal of promoting innovation.

The Chairman of the Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet and Intellectual Property,

Mr. SMITH, deserves credit for bringing these issues to the forefront through numerous hearings on patent quality. In addition, I would especially like to thank Congressman BOUCHER with whom I have been working on patent reform for the past few years. Also deserving of thanks are the many constitutional scholars, policy advocates, private parties, and government agencies that continue to contribute their time, thoughts, and drafting talents to this effort. I am pleased that, finally, at least a consensus has emerged among the various collaborators in support of the basic "post grant opposition" approach embodied in the legislation. This bill is the latest iteration of a process we started over four years ago.

Though we developed this bill in a highly collaborative and deliberative manner, I do not want to suggest that it is a "perfect" solution. Thus, I remain open to suggestions for amending the language to improve its efficacy or rectify any unintended consequences.

As I have said previously, "The bottom line in this: there should be no question that the U.S. patent system produces high quality patents. Since questions have been raised about whether this is the case, the responsibility of Congress is to take a close look at the functioning of the patent system." High patent quality is essential to continued innovation. Litigation abuses, especially those which thrive on low quality patents, impede the promotion of the progress of science and the useful arts. Thus, we must act during the 109th Congress to maintain the integrity of the patent system.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, on the evening of June 7, I missed 3 roll-call votes.

It was my intention to vote: "yes" on rollcall No. 228, H. Con. Res. 44—Recognizing the historical significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo; "yes" on rollcall No. 229, H. Res. 282—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding manifestations of anti-Semitism by United Nations member states and urging action against anti-Semitism by United Nations officials, United Nations member states, and the Government of the United States.

INTRODUCTION OF CANCER SCREENING ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Cancer Screening Coverage Act, a bill that will ensure that a greater number of Americans are covered for breast, cervical, prostate, and colorectal cancer screening. This legislation will increase the access to cancer screening exams for patients of private insurance and the Federal Employees Health Benefits plan.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death among Americans. According to the

American Cancer Society, more than 1,500 Americans die of cancer everyday. Cancer screening allows for the detection of cancer in its earliest form, when the cost of treatment is the least.

Many advances have been made, but the key to survival is early detection. It is estimated that the rate of survival would increase from 80 percent to 95 percent if all Americans participated in regular cancer screening. By providing increased access to screening procedures, the Cancer Screening Coverage Act would help save the lives of many Americans from this deadly disease.

REGARDING JOYCE McMILLIN AND HER LEGACY TO THE TRI-CITIES COMMUNITY

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Joyce McMillin, a constituent of mine who dedicated so much of her time and energy to honoring the brave men and women who have served our Nation in uniform. Honoring our veterans was a priority for Joyce—as it should be for all Americans.

Along with her husband Tom, who himself is a veteran of the Korean War, Joyce made it one of her final missions in life to create a memorial to those who have fought to protect our Nation. It is because of her vision, hard work and perseverance that the Regional Veterans Memorial now stands in Kennewick's Columbia Park.

Creating the Regional Veterans Memorial was not an easy process. After coming up with the idea, Joyce and Tom had to sell their vision to the community, secure a location and raise the funds necessary to build it.

Tragically, Joyce lost her battle with cancer shortly before the Regional Veterans Memorial ribbon cutting ceremony, which she had organized. I recently had the opportunity to visit the Memorial, and it is an impressive and fitting monument to American soldiers—past and present. It is a special place for current and future generations to reflect on the sacrifices made by those who have served in our Armed Forces. This Memorial is truly Joyce McMillin's legacy to the Tri-Cities. Our community is a better place because of her.

I would like to conclude by noting how proud I am to live in a community that is so committed to our veterans. I commend the McMillin family, the Tri-Cities Memorial Committee and everyone who helped make the new Regional Veterans Memorial a reality.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF SUN SAFETY

SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 7, 2005

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I'm proud to be an original cosponsor of H. Res. 196, which encourages the importance of sun safe-

ty and supports the designation of June 5th to June 11th as Sun Safety Week.

Skin cancer is the most commonly occurring cancer in the U.S. and 90 percent of all skin cancers can be attributed to the sun. This year it's estimated that there will be 1.3 million skin cancer cases in the U.S., exceeding the number of breast, lung, prostate and colon cancers combined.

More alarming is that 50 percent of lifetime exposure to UV light occurs during childhood and adolescence, and it can take less than 10 minutes for a child's skin to burn. Failing to take appropriate steps such as using sunscreen, wearing protective clothing, and limiting sun exposure can have serious and deadly consequences, especially for children. Practicing sun safe behaviors during childhood is the first step in reducing the chances of getting skin cancer later in life.

A new survey released on Monday by the nonprofit Sun Safety Alliance shows a 12-point decline in the percentage of Americans who report using sunscreen when outdoors, from 72 percent to 60 percent.

H. Res. 169 recognizes that skin cancer is highly preventable and urges parents to practice good sun safety for their children, which will dramatically reduce its risk.

I urge the entire House to vote yes on this important Resolution.

RECOGNIZING LIVE OAK HIGH SCHOOL ORCHESTRA

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Live Oak High School orchestra for its award of Best Student Orchestra in the 11th annual High School Music Theatre HONORS awards in San Jose.

This year, over 25 Bay Area High Schools competed in 10 unique categories. Judges from the American Musical Theatre were sent to each school to watch and evaluate performances. Judges were instructed to evaluate the quality of each production and performance, while keeping in mind each school's budget and available resources. This annual competition awarded four students who reside within California's 16th district.

The Live Oak High School Orchestra is conducted by Greg Bergantz. Live Oak High School won the Best Student Orchestra award for its performance in "Fiddler on the Roof".

The High School Music Theatre HONORS awards promote artistic creativity in a way that is vital to a youth's development. The performances that these youth stage are extremely labor intensive, and promote discipline, team work, and dedication. High School Performing Arts program's are generally underfunded and have been greatly reduced in recent years. I recognize the hard work, time, and energy that these students and teachers put into these productions.

I am proud to stand here today and recognize the Live Oak High School orchestra for its accomplishments. I urge all students to continue to take interest in the performing arts.

BIGGER THAN SOCIAL SECURITY CRISIS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I wish to bring the following article to the attention of my colleagues. This article discusses how the savings from creating a truly competitive market for prescription drugs, as is proposed by the Free Market Drug Act, could be used to eliminate any projected shortfall in Social Security. The American people demand that we focus our attention on the very real crisis that the soaring price of prescription drugs presents to their daily lives.

[From the Center for Economic and Policy Research, Apr., 2005]

BIGGER THAN THE SOCIAL SECURITY CRISIS: WASTEFUL SPENDING ON PRESCRIPTION DRUGS (By Dean Baker)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

President Bush started a national debate on the future of Social Security when he announced his plan for private accounts shortly after the November election. In order to promote his plan, he has argued that Social Security faces a serious long-term funding gap.

It is easy to show that the projected funding gap for Social Security is relatively minor. The Social Security trustees estimate that the gap over the program's 75-year planning period is equal to 0.6 percent of GDP over this period. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates this gap at 0.4 percent of GDP. By comparison, the increase in annual defense spending since 2000 has been equal to 1.0 percent of GDP, more than 1.5 times the size of the shortfall projected by the Social Security trustees and 2.5 times as large as the shortfall projected by CBO.

Given the size of the projected Social Security shortfall it is reasonable to argue that attention should be focused on bigger problems. One glaring example is the soaring price of prescription drugs, which is imposing huge costs on both the private and public sectors. This paper examines the relationship between the potential savings from creating a free market in prescription drugs and the size of the Social Security shortfall.

Specifically, it calculates the savings that the federal government could accrue in Medicare if drug research was publicly financed and then the resulting patents were placed in the public domain, as proposed in the Free Market Drug Act (FMDA). This would allow prescription drugs to be sold in a competitive market, like other products. By eliminating government imposed patent monopolies, drug prices would decline by approximately 70 percent.

This paper calculates that the savings to the federal government from having drugs sold in a competitive market could reach \$110 billion annually by 2014. By the end of the period (in 2080) the annual savings would be equal to 1.2 percent of GDP. The cumulative savings over the 75-year planning horizon would be \$3.3 trillion (in discounted 2005 dollars); this is slightly larger than the \$3.2 trillion Social Security shortfall projected by the CBO. In other words, if the federal government's savings on prescription drugs from the FMDA were attributed to the Social Security trust fund, it would be more than enough to make Social Security fully solvent over its 75-year planning period.

The enormous potential savings from developing a free market in prescription drugs

should be a powerful argument for moving in this direction in any case, but the possibility of using the savings to eliminate the projected Social Security shortfall could make the policy even more attractive. Of course, the savings to the private sector from having drugs sold in a free market would be even larger than the savings to the federal government.

However, the most important benefit is that the FMDA would eliminate the incentives that government patent monopolies create to conceal or misrepresent research findings, as was recently exposed with drugs like Vioxx and Celebrex. If research is no longer financed by government patent monopolies, the perverse incentives they create will be eliminated. This will lead to better health care, in addition to much lower drug prices.

THE HIPAA RECREATIONAL INJURY TECHNICAL CORRECTION ACT

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues Congressman BLUNT and Congressman STRICKLAND in introducing legislation that would prohibit insurers from denying payment to health plan participants for injuries sustained while engaged in certain recreational activities like horseback riding or motorcycling.

In January 2001, the Department of Labor, the Internal Revenue Service and the Health Care Financing Administration, issued a rule in accordance to the Health Insurance and Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) that was designed to guard against discrimination in coverage in the group health market. These rules prohibited health plans from denying coverage to people who engage in recreational activities like horseback riding and motorcycling. However a loophole was created that allowed insurers to deny payment for services based upon the source of the injury.

The rule states that: "While a person cannot be excluded from a plan for engaging in certain recreational activities, benefits for a particular injury can, in some cases, be excluded based on the source of the injury." A plan could, for example, include a general exclusion for injuries sustained while doing a specified list of recreational activities, even though treatment for those injuries, a broken arm for instance, would have been covered under the plan if the individual had tripped and fallen.

This loophole creates a situation that is especially unfair to people who ride motorcycles, horses, snowmobiles, or any other form of motorized recreation. Millions of Americans enjoy these activities safely every year within the framework of state laws and utilizing proper safety precautions. Should something extraordinary occur resulting in an injury, these individuals deserve the same consideration when it comes to their medical expenses as every other American. They should not be denied payment for health services for the mere fact that the injury occurred on horseback or on a motorcycle.

The legislation that we are introducing today will remove any ambiguity when it comes to participation in certain recreational activities or

modes of transportation should an injury occur. I want to thank Mr. BLUNT and Mr. STRICKLAND for joining me on this legislation. I look forward to working with them along with the multitude of groups that have made this legislation such a high priority, especially the American Motorcyclist Association and the Motorcycle Industry Council. I urge all of our colleagues to join us as cosponsors and stand with America's riders.

IN RECOGNITION OF MRS. DORETHA WARD KENT ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT FROM WILSON COUNTY SCHOOLS

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding American citizen, Mrs. Doretha Ward Kent, on the occasion of her much deserved retirement. For 25 years, Doretha Kent faithfully and diligently served in various capacities with the Wilson County School System and as a community volunteer.

Mrs. Kent was one of three daughters born to William and Dora Ward of Stantonsburg, North Carolina. She attended Springfield High School and then further pursued her education at Wilson County Technical Community College where she received an Associate Degree in Computer Technology.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Kent dedicated 20 long years of her life as a Teacher's Assistant at Wells Elementary School where she nurtured and helped to develop the young minds of thousands of students. She spent five years as a Media Assistant at Beddingfield High School highlighting the positive activities of students. Mr. Speaker, I am certain that both educational institutions will truly miss the valuable services that Doretha Kent provided over the years.

In addition to being a dedicated public servant Mrs. Kent founded NC Love in Action, a medical assistance program aimed at helping disadvantaged citizens of Wilson County. She is a member of Mt. Zion FWB Church and serves on the Usher Board and Finance Committee.

My relationship with Doretha Kent is one of personal friend and fellow community leader. We have worked together for so long in our effort to improve the quality of life for all of our citizens. I am honored to sponsor this tribute on this occasion.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in honoring this great woman of uncompromising moral integrity and devotion to God and community. Her service to her community, the State of North Carolina, and the United States of America are greatly appreciated.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 7, 2005, I was unavoidably absent due to a previous commitment. Had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: on rollcall No. 228: "yes" on Final Passage of H. Con. Res. 44; on rollcall No. 229: "yes" on Final Passage of H. Res. 282.

WITHDRAW FROM IRAQ

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, one the ablest Members of the current Congress, JIM MCGOVERN, has joined with one of the ablest Members in the history of the Congress, George McGovern to address the troubling issue of Iraq, and they make an eloquent case—with which I completely agree—that "the United States must now begin an orderly withdrawal of our forces from this mistaken foreign venture."

Mr. Speaker, it is our custom in introducing relevant material of this sort into this RECORD to put some gloss on the material entered. In this case, I feel absolutely no need to do this, because the authors—former Senator George McGovern and Congressman JIM MCGOVERN—do a superb job of explaining why we should pull out of Iraq. I will note that I join them not only in their basic argument, but in their note that as "earlier opponents of the U.S. invasion of Iraq . . . we hoped that our concerns would be proven wrong." None of us take any joy in the fact that this has worked out so much worse than the Administration had predicted, but we must draw the consequences from this mistake and not continue with a seriously flawed policy which drains us financially, costs the lives of our military, and makes the situation in the Middle East worse rather than better in so many ways.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the essay by George McGovern and JIM MCGOVERN from the Monday, June 6 Boston Globe be printed here.

[From the Boston Globe, June 6, 2005]

WITHDRAW FROM IRAQ

(By George McGovern and Jim McGovern)

We were early opponents of the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Nonetheless, once American forces were committed, we hoped that our concerns would be proven wrong. That has not been the case.

The United States must now begin an orderly withdrawal of our forces from this mistaken foreign venture.

The justification for the war was based on false or falsified information. What had been initially characterized by the Bush administration as an uncomplicated military operation has turned into a violent quagmire. Our leaders underestimated not only the insurgency, but also the deep-rooted ethnic divisions in Iraqi society.

There are no clear answers from the administration or the Congress on how long our forces will need to stay in Iraq, what the

anticipated costs in human life and treasure will be, or even what would constitute success.

Instead, many of our policymakers seem resigned to an open-ended occupation. Former Defense Undersecretary Paul Wolfowitz has told Congress that we will be there for at least another 10 years. It is common to hear even some who voted against the war say, "now that we're there, we have no choice but to stay."

We very much disagree. Calls to maintain the status quo echo the same rationale used to keep us in Vietnam. To those who contend that we would weaken our credibility if we withdraw, we believe that the Nation's standing would greatly improve if we demonstrate the judgment to terminate an unwise course.

Our continuing presence in Iraq feeds the insurgency and gives the insurgents a certain legitimacy in the eyes of much of the world. We know from our own history that armies of occupation are seldom welcome.

There have been elections in Iraq, and yet it remains unclear whether the different political, ethnic, and religious factions want to work together.

One thing, however, is clear: Washington cannot determine Iraq's destiny. It doesn't matter how many times Condoleezza Rice or Donald Rumsfeld visit. It doesn't matter how many soldiers we deploy. The myriad factions in Iraq themselves must display the political will to demand a system of government that respects the diversity that exists in their country.

There are no easy answers in Iraq. But we are convinced that the United States should now set a dramatically different course—one that anticipates U.S. military withdrawal sooner rather than later. We should begin the discussions now as to how we can bring our troops home.

The United States should accelerate and pay for the training of Iraqi security forces with the help of Egypt, Jordan, and other Arab allies. We can begin drawing down American forces to coincide with the number of trained Iraqi forces. By that measure, we should bring 30,000 of our troops home now.

President Bush should consult with the current Iraqi government and other Arab nations about the necessity for an Arab-led security force to complement the Iraqis in the short term. Again, the United States should finance this effort.

We should also work with the United Nations to solicit ideas and assistance from the international community on how we can best disengage.

There are no guarantees that militarily withdrawing from Iraq would contribute to stability or would not result in chaos. On the other hand, we do know that under our occupation the violence will continue. We also know that our occupation is one of the chief reasons for hatred of the United States, not only in the Arab world but elsewhere.

Wars are easy to get into, but hard as hell to get out of. After two years in Iraq and the loss of more than 1,600 American soldiers, it is simply not enough to embrace the status quo.

We are not suggesting a "cut-and-run" strategy. The United States must continue to finance security, training, and reconstruction.

But the combination of stubbornness and saving face is not an adequate rationale for continuing this war. This is not a liberal or conservative issue. It is time for lawmakers in Washington—and for concerned citizens across the Nation—to demand that this sad chapter in our history come to an end and not be repeated in some other hapless country.

The path of endless war will bankrupt our treasury, devour our soldiers, and degrade

the moral and spiritual values of the Nation. It is past time to change course.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN STEVEN C. MILLER, USN

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Captain Steven C. Miller, United States Navy, for his twenty-six years of active duty service to our country. He is the Commanding Officer of the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Corona, California and will retire on June 17, 2005.

Captain Miller graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1979. After being commissioned as an officer he embarked on an extraordinary active duty career as a Surface Warfare Officer. He has deployed throughout the world in support of America's global naval presence and power projection. Captain Miller has served as a Surface Warfare Officer on destroyers, frigates and cruisers. He was the Executive Officer of the USS *Ticonderoga* (CG 47) when she went to war in support of Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm in 1990 and 1991. Captain Miller was hand picked to be the first Commanding Officer of the USS *Stethem* (DDG 63) when she entered service in 1995. Under his leadership, the crew of the *Stethem* earned the coveted Battle "E" award for combat readiness in the first year of the ship's service.

Besides being a true warrior at sea, Captain Miller has had a distinguished career ashore. He has served in the office of the Chief of Naval Operations as the Executive Secretary for Joint Chiefs of Staff Affairs and as the Flag Secretary for the Commander Naval Surface Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet. Following his command tour on the USS *Stethem*, Captain Miller shaped the future of the Navy's surface combat force while working on the program start of the DD(X). This new destroyer program will lead the Navy into the twenty-first century. Captain Miller has earned a Master's Degree in National Security Strategy at the Naval War College and qualified as a U.S. Navy Acquisition Professional.

I first met Captain Miller when he assumed command of the Naval Surface Warfare Center in my district. NSWC, Corona provides independent assessment and testing and evaluation to the fleet on weapons systems and operations and provides quality control for the tools our Navy uses to fight the Global War on Terrorism. I have come to know him as a strong leader who accomplishes the mission and takes care of his people.

Captain Steve Miller has done much to preserve our way of life. Our country, our Navy and my community have benefited from his selfless service. He is a fantastic example for today's young people who want to serve their country and for those who dream of attending one of our service academies. He has earned my many thanks. I wish him well in his retirement from the Navy and all his future endeavors.

NEED FOR NATIONAL
HEALTHCARE

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, May 21, I had the honor of chairing a citizens hearing on the need for national health care which took place in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania. I heard testimony from citizens from a wide variety of backgrounds including labor, elected officials, seniors, youth, and physicians and health care workers. What I heard powerfully demonstrates the need for fundamental changes in how America takes care of its people. The hearing clearly showed that the time is long overdue to bring our health care system up to the same standards that other industrialized countries have enjoyed for years. I wish to share some of the testimony I received with my colleagues.

Carol McMann, a retiree and an active member of the Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees (SOAR) Chapter 2020:

"I am disappointed and frustrated about the way our health care system is going in the United States. A lot of people do not want national health care, but when you get in my situation it would be appreciated!"

"When LTV Steel liquidated and took my health insurance in the year 2002, it totally left me out in the cold."

"I had two choices for health care and the expensive one was the one that I had to take because I needed a prescription drug program. I had to purchase individual health care from Highmark Blue Shield/Blue Cross. If I chose an HMO and was accepted, then I had a year that I would not be covered for pre-existing conditions."

"This individual policy costs me \$411.95 a month with a \$1,000 deductible. It increases each year in September. Who knows what the total will be in two more years! My husband and I figured out our total cost for health care each year, including prescription drugs, and it came out to more than \$10,000. It takes all of my social security just to pay the premium alone. I am a homemaker!"

"At the end of the month, we have to watch because if our fixed income is gone, we must use our savings again and again. We fear it may be gone in the future. To wind this down, we no longer vacation, go on shopping sprees, buy our sons much, or enjoy life as before. It has depressed us at times and causes us to feel as though my husband worked for absolutely no reason! He served in the Army and also the Reserves. Our health care just meant everything to us in our retirement. Just everything!"

"We feel this administration and other elected leaders will not fix this problem. Everyone in this country now is just expected to take care of themselves."

Mike Sabat, an unemployed Anchor Hocking worker whose son Mikey suffers from autism:

"Whatever happened to the American dream of hard work at a good job with medical benefits? Now we have to ask employers what kind of medical insurance they offer, how much it costs, and then deal with an endless assortment of HMOs, PPOs, and managed care and third-party administrators. And don't forget the eye care, dental, orthotics, and mental health coverage. It seems like we have been working all our lives just for our medical benefits!"

"I am laid-off again at the present time, however, a union contract saved my medical insurance for four months."

"In a country so rich, no one should have to go without food, water, clothing, shelter, quality education, and especially health care!"

"People should not be in debt, as I am, over their medical insurance or bills!"

"Those commercials about insurance fraud kill me. I think when you have insurance and you go to the doctor or hospital thinking you are covered then you get a large bill, that's the real insurance fraud!"

Ian Thompson, a recent graduate of Penn State University who will soon be losing his health coverage:

"Simply put, to say that the current health care system is failing to meet the needs of America's young adults is at best a gross understatement. While young people between the ages of 19 to 29 account for a mere 15 percent of the U.S. population, they are disproportionately represented among the roughly 45 million Americans who currently lack health insurance, accounting for roughly 30 percent according to recent census figures. These findings have shown that young people account for the highest percentage of uninsured Americans."

"Nineteen to 29 year olds represent one of the biggest and fastest growing segments of the population living day to day without health insurance, yet individuals in this age group rarely appear in the national debate on health insurance."

"It probably comes as no surprise that one of the largest barriers for young adults in seeking health insurance coverage is cost. In many instances, the price of coverage simply rises faster than incomes, making it especially difficult for younger people to obtain coverage."

"For many younger people, the consequences of going without health insurance don't seem as immediate as cutting back on grocery bills, losing car insurance, or missing a rent or mortgage payment. So they decide to take a chance—a calculated risk that they won't face a serious and costly health crisis—and forgo health coverage for months and often years at a time. Sadly, for many this proves to be a devastating gamble. When catastrophes hit the uninsured, as they can and do to individuals in every age group, many are left completely buried in massive amounts of debt, unable to afford even basic medical necessities."

"With the numbers of uninsured Americans steadily increasing, today's young people face the sad prospect of being sicker and less economically productive over the course of their lives. Amid a soft job market and ever increasing insurance costs, many experts fear that more and more young adults will forgo medical care altogether. Research has in fact shown that it is a common practice among uninsured young people to go to a doctor less often and later into an illness, often ending up with so many other countless uninsured Americans in hospital emergency rooms for conditions that easily could have been treated at an earlier time."

Those who argue that younger adults are an age group that does not have the same health needs as other segments of the population simply have not been paying attention to the facts. Younger adults have the highest number of annual visits to emergency rooms each year (usually from injuries). They account for a third of new HIV diagnoses. And nearly four million pregnancies occur in women in their 20s every year. The results of a lack of insurance for young people are truly shocking and should act as a wake-up call to the consciences of Americans from across the political spectrum. The Institute of Medicine estimates that 18,000 young adults die each year because they lack health insurance to cover their problems. Additionally, uninsured adults are 25 percent

more likely to die prematurely than those with private health insurance coverage.

"There is something inherently perverted and fundamentally flawed with a health care system that prides itself as being the best and most advanced in the world while at the same time allowing 18,000 young people to die each and every year from illnesses and diseases that in many cases could be avoided with simple preventive treatment."

"The time is long overdue to change our outrageously costly and grossly inefficient health care system to one that meets the basic needs of the American public in terms of gaining universal, efficient, available, and affordable access to the highest quality health care. H.R. 676, the U.S. National Health Insurance Act goes a long way towards accomplishing this very goal. This legislation would improve and expand upon what older Americans already receive through the very successful Medicare program to include all U.S. residents. To say it is needed is an understatement. The current for-profit system of health care must be replaced with one that puts the interests of people first."

HONORING THE LIFE ACHIEVEMENTS OF JUANA BORDAS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Juana Bordas, a leader in Denver's Hispanic community and a great Coloradan. At a time when immigration is so hotly debated and in such divisive ways, the story of Juana Bordas is inspiring.

Juana Bordas was born in El Salvador, but emigrated to the United States from Nicaragua when she was just three years old. Her parents and her seven siblings made a difficult journey over many miles in the hull of a banana boat!

From these humble beginnings, Juana has gone on to become one of the most respected women in Colorado, not only as a member of the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame, but also the National Hispana Leadership Institute. From this place of stature, she speaks eloquently of the importance of embracing one's history—particularly for Latina women and their mothers. Juana said that it was difficult as a child to be poor and dark-skinned. She acknowledges that there were times as a child that she was embarrassed to know that her mother only achieved a fifth grade education, mothered eight children and worked in the cafeteria of Juana's elementary school. She says that the shame she once felt for her mother's history has now become a great source of pride. The tremendous courage and sacrifice her mother exhibited have been the foundation for her children to lead a better life. Juana calls this "servant leadership." She makes the point that instead of looking at her mother's experience as subservient, it really embodies the qualities of a true leader: hard work, driving purpose, courage and dedication to a cause greater than one's own self-interest. Those qualities should be admired, embraced and emulated as young Latinas strive to achieve their goals. From my vantage point, the example of Juana's mother—and Juana's own life—are truly inspiring.

In the early 1970s Juana Bordas started the MiCasa Resource Center for Women in Denver which continues to this day to help low-income Latinas and youth with job training and life skills. As President of a multicultural consulting firm, Mestiza Leadership International, she travels the country developing diversity in the workforce. She has said that, "my mission is to help with the birth of a multi-cultural nation." She notes how Latinos in other countries are heads of government and industry, and believes that there is no reason why it should be different here in the United States. Juana served with the Denver Election Commission to register more voters and to put her beliefs into practical effect. Today, Latino leaders are emerging in public office as never before. Thoughtful and hard-working people like Juana Bordas have helped to pave this path of progress.

Juana Bordas reminds of us of something that should be important to every American. Each of us owes an enormous debt to the strength and courage of families who sacrificed for their children in order to realize the American dream. Our country was founded by such people, and that continues to be our greatest strength. As a successful business woman, Juana Bordas has given an immeasurable amount back to our community in time, skill, wisdom, and by simply being a role model. It is with great admiration that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Juana Bordas, a great American success story and a woman worth knowing and learning from. I wish her continued success in the future.

BUSH AND THE G-8 AGENDA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, the current state of the African continent has been an ongoing issue of concern for policy makers in this country and elsewhere. As the rest of the world is reaping the rewards of development, Africa seems to be sinking deeper into a health and poverty crisis.

In pursuit of a solution, British Prime Minister Tony Blair met with President Bush at the White House yesterday to discuss next month's Group of Eight (G-8) summit. Specifically, the two men discussed Prime Minister Blair's ambitious plan to bring a historic combination of debt relief, trade concessions, and aid to the African continent.

A major component of the plan would entail a large increase of aid payments to Africa to around \$25 billion annually, before increasing to \$50 billion annually within three to five years. This would be in-line with the UN's goal to have industrialized nations allocate 0.7 percent of their GDP to development assistance. While Mr. Blair's exciting proposal should be applauded, agreement as to how it will be achieved is still awaited.

Mr. Blair and British Finance Minister Gordon Brown argue that the aid should be funded through a mechanism they call the "International Finance Facility" (IFF). The IFF would raise aid funds by issuing bonds on world capital markets. The IFF bonds would be backed by a promise from the G7 economic powers to repay them after 2015.

The Bush Administration has not been supportive of the IFF, which it views as incompatible with U.S. Congressional budgetary rules. However, while aspects of the IFF proposal may be problematic, the necessity for increased aid to Africa is not in question. At current assistance rates, Sub Saharan Africa will unquestionably fall short of the Millennium Development Goals to cut poverty on the continent in half by 2015. As such, Blair's call for further aid to the continent is merited.

To its credit, the Bush Administration has substantially increased aid to Sub-Saharan Africa, which amounted to around \$3.2 billion in 2004. Though this ranks the U.S. among the world leaders in total African assistance, we still trail much of the industrialized world in the amount of aid we give as a percentage of GDP. In addition, large amounts of the Bush Administration's aid pledges to Africa have been slow in coming. For example, the \$4 billion committed to the region under the Millennium Challenge Account has yet to actually be delivered in earnest. Indeed, a June 8th Op-Ed in New York Times entitled "Crumbs for Africa" describes just how much more we can do.

On Tuesday, the Bush Administration announced that the U.S. will provide \$674 million in additional famine assistance to Africa this year from funds already appropriated by Congress. While this is to be commended, Prime Minister Blair is pushing for a broad, long-term effort to help Africa's economy get on its feet, not just emergency food aid. He also wants G-8 countries to commit new money for Africa rather than reallocating funds already earmarked for foreign assistance. It is my hope that the Administration will work with its G-8 partners in the coming weeks to arrive at a more substantial and comprehensive aid package for Africa.

While the issue of increased aid will be difficult, the related goal of debt relief is very attainable, as long as all parties involved dedicate themselves to that outcome. Both Prime Minister Blair and Finance Minister Brown have voiced optimism about the prospects for reaching G-8 agreement on the issue. The U.S. and other G-8 members already agree in principle on 100 percent debt relief for Africa's poorest nations, but the exact formula for how the debt will be cancelled is still being resolved.

The U.S. is calling for a simple write-off of the debt, while Britain and others have called for the debt to be paid off, so as to replenish the resources of the International Development Banks. Among other things, Blair advocates selling a portion of International Monetary Fund (IMF) gold reserves to help pay off the debt. Whatever the mechanism, Africa needs debt relief as soon as possible. Many African countries are crippled by debt burdens that in some cases consume nearly 40 percent of their annual budgets. It is thus imperative that negotiations on this issue continue.

President Bush now has a golden opportunity to join with Prime Minister Blair and other members of the G-8 in helping to establish a new era for Africa. Such an opportunity is unprecedented in Africa's post colonial history. To turn back now would be more than shameful.

The United States has already spent nearly \$200 billion on the war in Iraq—a country of 26 million people. Prime Minister Blair is calling on us to now spend a few billion dollars

more to help save an entire continent encompassing over 700 million people. That is what I call making our money count, and the legacy of such an effort will yield immeasurable benefits for Africa, and the world as a whole.

Again, I thank Mr. Blair for his bold and ambitious vision, and I pray that our country will be able to stand with him in making it a reality.

[From the New York Times, June 8, 2005]

CRUMBS FOR AFRICA

President Bush kept a remarkably straight face yesterday when he strode to the microphones with Britain's prime minister, Tony Blair, and told the world that the United States would now get around to spending \$674 million in emergency aid that Congress had already approved for needy countries. That's it. Not a penny more to buy treated mosquito nets to help save the thousands of children in Sierra Leone who die every year of preventable malaria. Nothing more to train and pay teachers so 11-year-old girls in Kenya may go to school. And not a cent more to help Ghana develop the programs it needs to get legions of young boys off the streets.

Mr. Blair, who will be the host when the G-8, the club of eight leading economic powers, holds its annual meeting next month, is trying to line up pledges to double overall aid for Africa over the next 10 years. That extra \$25 billion a year would do all those things, and much more, to raise the continent from dire poverty. Before getting to Washington, Mr. Blair had done very well, securing pledges of large increases from European Union members.

According to a poll, most Americans believe that the United States spends 24 percent of its budget on aid to poor countries; it actually spends well under a quarter of 1 percent. As Jeffrey Sachs, the Columbia University economist in charge of the United Nations' Millennium Project, put it so well, the notion that there is a flood of American aid going to Africa "is one of our great national myths."

The United States currently gives just 0.16 percent of its national income to help poor countries, despite signing a United Nations declaration three years ago in which rich countries agreed to increase their aid to 0.7 percent by 2015. Since then, Britain, France and Germany have all announced plans for how to get to 0.7 percent; America has not. The piddling amount Mr. Bush announced yesterday is not even 0.007 percent.

What is 0.7 percent of the American economy? About \$80 billion. That is about the amount the Senate just approved for additional military spending, mostly in Iraq. It's not remotely close to the \$140 billion corporate tax cut last year.

This should not be the image Mr. Bush wants to project around a world that is intently watching American actions on this issue. At a time when rich countries are mounting a noble and worthy effort to make poverty history, the Bush administration is showing itself to be completely out of touch by offering such a miserly drop in the bucket. It's no surprise that Mr. Bush's offer was greeted with scorn in television broadcasts and newspaper headlines around the world. "Bush Opposes U.K. Africa Debt Plan," blared the headline on the AllAfrica news service, based in Johannesburg. "Blair's Gambit: Shame Bush Into Paying" chimed in The Sydney Morning Herald in Australia.

The American people have a great heart. President Bush needs to stop concealing it.

A TRIBUTE TO MIKE PFANKUCH

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognizing the outstanding achievements of Mike Pfankuch, the outgoing president of the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary Club. In this 2004–2005 service, Mike has contributed enormously and made a tremendous difference to the Rotary Club and the citizens of Carlsbad.

Mike's accomplishments are many and varied. Under his guidance, the Rotary Club has completed and dedicated its three-year Centennial Project, the Carlsbad Hosp Grove Picnic Area. The project included a cleanup of the grove, the planting of 1,000 trees and the donation of picnic tables and benches, a very welcome amenity to the city.

In addition, the Second Annual Hi-Noon Rotary golf tournament fundraiser was successfully completed and the funds dedicated to providing scholarships to local high school students, a Rotaract Club has been established, and the Annual Oktoberfest fundraiser sponsored in conjunction with the Carlsbad Evening Rotary Club completed a record year. The 26,000 of proceeds was donated to the Women's Resource Center, the Boys and Girls Club of Carlsbad and Community Youth Services. The Oktoberfest was a project originally initiated by the Hi-Noon Rotary Club.

Mike's leadership is also making a difference to people in need of a helping hand. He initiated a program to provide financial aid to the Store Front, a San Diego organization dedicated to helping homeless children get a fresh start in life. During Mike's tenure a number of other projects were completed which enhanced public safety, provided volunteers and supplies to do maintenance and repair work for the elderly and needy in the community, to distribute food, clothing and toys to needy families in conjunction with the Carlsbad Christmas Bureau, and sponsored a Christmas party and dinner for elementary school children of very low income families.

During Mike's tenure, in an effort to promote literacy, a Dictionary Distribution program was initiated and the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotarians distributed English and Spanish dictionaries to needy elementary school children.

On the international front, Mike also provided extraordinary leadership by establishing a Model UN Program, exposing high school students to world affairs, led the way to provide sponsors for exchange students from foreign countries, initiated and obtained an AIDS Education Program grant, initiated an aid program for the victims of the tsunami in Southeast Asia, and provided the leadership necessary to provide financial assistance for dental care and a dental clinic for the needy children of Honduras. In addition, during his tenure a partnership project was established with a Rotary Club in Ensenada, Mexico to provide water, electricity, plumbing and painting, a project that will benefit approximately 1,000 people.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in recognizing the many fine achievements of Mike Pfankuch. Without question, his leadership and the fine work of the Carlsbad Hi-Noon Rotary Club are worthy of recognition by the House today.

HONORING THE VOLUNTEERS OF
THE BATTLESHIP NEW JERSEY**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the volunteers of the USS *New Jersey*, which is located in my district in Camden, New Jersey. The ship has been open to the public since 2000 and is our Nation's most decorated battleship, having heroically served in three major conflicts: World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

The volunteers of the USS *New Jersey* are responsible for many things on the ship, including restoration and maintenance, giving tours, clerical work, and educating the community about the ship and its history. Volunteers work 7 days a week, rain or shine, and have logged over 300,000 hours of volunteer time. In 2000, they won the Governor's Volunteerism Award for their extraordinary work.

Below are the names of the dedicated volunteers of the USS *New Jersey*:

Mike Aaron, Edward Adams, Harry Aharon, Edwina Alber, John Alberta, Ricardo Alciniega, Craig Allen, Adam M. Allibone, April Allstaedt, Bob Allstaedt, Joshua Allstaedt, Ryan Allstaedt, Tyler Allstaedt, Anthony Altadonna, David M. Ambrosio, Frank C. Annaloro, Theresa E. Annaloro, Ricardo Arciniega, Carl A. Arzillo, Gus W. Augustin, William Bacon, John P. Bader, William J. Baehr, Christina Baessler, Arlene Baker, Cameron M. Balaban, Charles B. Ball, Sam Ballinger, Thomas Banit, Elaine Barnes, Clifford Barr, Albert Beatty, Don R. Beck, John C. Becker, Harry P. Becky, Pat A. Becky, Frances Bender, Paul A. Benner, Sam Bennett, Bill Berman, Art Beyer, Jim Bibbo, Bob Bieber, Ed Bilger, Randy K. Binter, Bill Bittner, Richard J. Blash, William Blazer, Michael K. Boggess, Peter Bomm, Abel Boney, David Boone, Steven A. Borkowski, Cathy Bosley, Charles Bosley, Tom E. Boughton.

Mike R. Bowser, Joe Boyle, Fred Branyan, Norm Branyan, Frank J. Brennan, Robert Bretz, Ralph A. Bringhurst, Steven A. Bromhead, Eric A. Brown, Kimberly A. Brown, Rob Brown, Robert Brown, William V. Brown, Jr., Harry V. Bryant, Dave Buchanan, David R. Burgess, Margaret D. Burgess, Charles Burns, Walt Burshtin, Dan Bush, Brian L. Callahan, Peggy F. Caltabiano, Joseph Campbell, Jeffery L. Cantor, Earl M. Cargen, Jose Caringal, Paul Carman, Robert W. Carmint, Jr., Mark B. Carney, Eugene V. Carr, Lauren Carter, Carol Cassel, Robert Cassel, Fred Cassentino, Edwin Cassidy, Jr., Richard A. Castro, Robert Catando, Michael Cauto, Tony Cellucia, Stuart L. Chalkley, Edward Cheeseman, Kurt E. Cheesman, William Chew, Frank Chiacchio, Merwyn B. Claaria, Edward R. Clark, Jeff Cochrane, Ronald B. Cohen, Anita Collings, Joseph Collins, Russell Collins, Gary Conover, Ken Conte, Ted Cooper, George A. Corbeels, Larry A. Cote, Arthur Covello, Utta Covello, Joseph R. Cramer, Robert Creamer, Pat Crespo, Virgil R. Crider, Gary Crispin, John D. Croghan, Stewart Cross, David W. Cunningham, Michael Cutrera, Wayne Dahl, Bob A. Daniels, Tony Dawson, Bob Day, David Deaner, Patrick C. Dechirico, Gennaro DeFrancesco.

Skip Deglavina, Michael Del Pidio, Robert Delconte, Dominador DelRosario, Tony

Deluca, Frank DeRoberts, Peter DeStefano, Klaus Dewedoff, Hugo Di Bona, John A. Diblasio, Phil Diciano, Jerry T. Dickinson, Charles Dieterich, David J. Dimarzio, Frances E. Doak, Anne Dobbs, Welford L. Dolbow, Roger Doll, William J. Domzalski, Joe Donnelly, Jerry M. Donovan, John M. Dorosky, Gail Dougherty, Paul Dougherty, Sara Dougherty, Bob Downs, Joseph F. Drebes, Bill Dreisbach, Joseph Duffin, Joseph J. Dugan, Esther Duke, James J. Duross, Linda Duross, James J. Dziemian, Joseph V. Dzurenda, Don Ebert, Robert L. Eboch, Jr., Dick Edwards, Erik C. Efsen, Jen E. Efsen, Walter Eife, Chris D. Eme, Lawrence J. Engel, Harry E. Engleman, Nicholas Erisman, Mayer Falk, Joseph Falker, Vincent Falso, Louis J. Fantacone, Peter Fantacone, Paul A. Farber, Dan Farrell, Dave Farren, Joe A. Fassano, Albert Faulkner, Paul D. Fazekas, Thomas J. Fee, Joseph Fillmyer, Kara Fillmyer, Conor Finnegan, William Finnegan, Jr., Allen P. Fisher, George A. Foglia, Frank Foord, George Fore, Reita Forsythe, Elenor Forsythe, Wayne G. Fox, Harry Frank, Ron Frantz, Michael D. Frazer, Woody Freeman, Bruce Frey, Bj Frullo.

Millicent Frye, Bill Fuentes, Gene F. Furmanski, Robert Furmanski, Charles Gallagher, Ted Gallagher, Philip Galluccio, Rolland Garber, George Gasper, Christine Gaudet, Steve Gava, Douglas G. Gehring, Bernie Gelman, Philip J. Gentile, George Gershefski, Hoot Gibson, Frank Gilbert, Matt Gilbert, John J. Gildea, Albert Giumetti, Michael Glauber, John P. Goheen, Art Gordon, Jack P. Gordon, Bob Gramigna, Lee H. Gray, Dane J. Greene, Peter Greene, Charles Gronek, Joe Groppenbacher, James Grossi, Rachael Grossman, John Grunwald, Scott Gunt, Edward Grygo, Edward A. Haas, Bruce Haegly, William H. Hague, Kathleen Haines, Patricia A. Haines, Arthur Hall, Paul Halter, Sandy Halo, Charles Hamilton, Edward J. Hamilton, Jim Hamilton, William H. Hamilton, Dick Hammond, Ivan B. Hancock, William P. Hansche, Paul D. Hanson, Tom R. Hanson, Paul Hanstein, Kenneth Hardcassel, Fred Harron, Walter Haswell, Ken J. Hattrick, Walter Hause, John C. Heacock, Chris F. Heller, Ebe Helm, William Helmetag, Tom Helvig, Greg Henderson, Kevin Henry, Elmer Heppard, Charles A. Higgins, William H. Higgins, Art T. Hilkert, Arthur Hill, John B. Hinds, John Hoban, Martin J. Hoffman, Stan Hojnacki.

Eugene F. Holben, Gary Holden, Gary A. Hollenbaugh, Carl R. Holmstrom, George Holston, William Holstrom, Robert Homan, Fred Honigman, Joseph A. Hopkins, John R. Horan, Robert Houck, Ursula Houser, Glenn E. Hughes, Jerold Humphreys, George Hunt, Carl S. Hyde, Spud Ignatius, Thomas J. Jaskel, Philip S. Jaworski, William R. Jensen, David M. Jimick, Charlie Johnson, R. Kevin Johnson, James E. Jones, Robert Jones, Harry L. Josephsen, William Jubb, Ruben E. Kafenbaum, Roland Kane, Cheryl L. Kaplan, Ted J. Katz, Dennis Kauffmann, Ed Keenan, William Kehler, Glen W. Kelley, Richard Kellum, John F. Kelly.

John R. Kelty, Brian Kerrigan, Karen Kersch, Kenneth E. Kersch, Ruth Keser, Al Kidder, Edith Kinsky, Bill Kinsky, Chet W. Klabbe, Robert W. Koch, Arnold B. Kohler, Martin Kokoska, Matthew Kokoska, Edward Kolbe, Ed Komczyk, Christian M. Kraft, Walter Krilov, Robert L. Krukowski, Raymond A. Kuehner,

Joe Kulesa, Sam Kuncevic, Paul M. Kupiec, Ben G. Kyler, Bob LaVine, Lydia LaVine, Frank Laber, Nan L. Lacorte, Howard Lafianza, Jim Lafianza, Raymond J. Lavanture, Jack W. Ledebor, Skip Leeson, Bill Leibfrid, Elizabeth Lerch, Fred Lesser, Aaron D. Levitsky, Dennis Levitt, William Lewis, William Linder, Bruce T. Lindstrom, Nancy Lobel, Bob C. Locke, Janet Locke, Joseph Lodovico, Art Lohan, Bruce R. Lomonaco, Charles W. Long, George Lopresti, Juergen E. Lorenz, Milton H. Lowe, William G. Lutz, Alfred J. Lynch, Dale Lynch, George R. Macculloch, Joseph W. Macmillan Chris. W. Macready, James T. Maher, John Makara, Chet K. Malik, James Malloy, Vincent Mancini, Larry G. Margulis, Patrick Marion, Craig W. Martin, Marji Martin, Edward Martino, Tony Martorana, Richard F. Masko, Norman G. Matthews, Calvin B. Mattson, Warren Mattson, Richard L. Mauger, Dave May, Pat McBride.

Gerald McCloskey, John McClerman, Todd McConnell, Tom McCorkell, Robert G. McCord, Doug McCray, Hugh McElroy, Leslie McGeoch, John F. McGranahan, Gene McLaughlin, Jean McLaughlin, Dennis McMichael, Jack McNally, Jacki McPhee, Paul M. McPike, Allan McVey, Michael Meaney, Richard W. Meanor, Duane Meller, David A. Mellish, Bernadette Menna, Matthew L. Merry, Frank V. Mevoli, Edward Miller, Donald A. Miller, Gary H. Miller, James Miller, John L. Miller, William R. Miller, John (Jack) Mills, John Mills, Barney M. Milstein, Joe Moloney, Susan Monsour, Calvin Moon, Martin C. Mooney, James R. Moore, David Morales, Joe Moran, Robert F. Moritz, Frank Morrone, Harvey D. Morton, Daniel Muckel, Dave Mull, David I. Mullan, Joseph A. Mullan, Marta A. Mullan, Jack F. Muller, Lewis Murchison, Timothy M. Murphy, Thomas A. Muskett Jr., Larry S. Natelson, Deandre Nelson, Christopher Newcombe, Max R. Newhart, Paul Niessner, Ernest Ng, Don Noonan, Ronald Noreen, Frank J. Obermeier, Frank S. O'Keefe, Charles T. Olinda, Kenneth J. Olivier, Walter E. Olkowski, Charles O'Neill, Frank O'Neill, Joan O'Rourke, Frances Orzechowski, Larry Otreba, Richard R. Palazzo, Peg Palmer, George H. Parks III, Robert D. Patrick, Aj J. Patten.

John M. Pavak, Keith Pavulak, Adam Paz, Bruce Penny, John J. Percy, Joe Perno, Dave J. Perone, John Perry, Richard P. Pietrow, Charles Pine, Albert Piong, Walt Piotrowski, Tony Pizzi, Ernest G. Posner, Bruce Powell, Earl Preis, Jeannette R. Priestley, Louis Priestley, Larry Pyle, Pat Quinn, John Quinesso, Roy F. Radil, Jim Ramentol, Frank Randolph, Dave M. Ratcliffe, Susan Ratcliffe, Howard Reed, Marie D. Reimel, Michael Renish, Camilo M. Reyes, Walter G. Ribeiro, Mark H. Richardson, Norma L. Rightler, Chris G. Robinson, Adam Roch, Alexander Rodriguez, Glenn T. Roggio, Kevin Rooney, Andrew C. Roppoli, Michael Rosado, Ed Rosenheim, Marie Rossi, Ted Roth, James Rothman, Norman C. Roton, John Rowey, Ronald Ruban Sr., Joseph K. Rubino, Jon Rudolph, Harry Ruhle, Maria Rumil, John Ryan, Lois A. Ryan, Aldo Saggese, Mary A. Samson, Eric Saperstein, John F. Saracen, Kristine Sawaya, James D. Scamuffa, William Sahacht, Henry Schafer, David Schmidt, Raymond Schnapp, Alfred C. Schneider, Barbara B. Schneider, Wayne H. Schofield, Alfred Schuler, Ralph Schwank, Don T. Schwendt, Howard B. Scott, George Seaman, Allan Segal, Jason Seiberlich, William M. Seiberlich.

Walter Seitz, Kevin Sekula, Sharon Seybold, Rochelle Shakti, Robert Shea, Joseph Shields, Joel Shusterman, Alfred R. Signor, Frederick G. Siler, Harry Silvers, Richard L. Silvers, Dolores Silvestri, Adam Simkins, Brian Simmons, Joanne M. Simmons, Harry J. Simonini, Bill Smart, David Smith, Mary Smith, Ronald Smitherman, Daniel Soldano, Lon Somora, Dick Sowers, Ted J. Speer, Kelly S. Spina, Charles V. Spinetta, Claire Spinetta, Neil E. St. Clair, Jr., Richard J. Stefanick, Carmine Staino, James Standiford, Joseph Stalter, Jeri Stephens, David Stephnowski, Charles Stewart, Ed Stewart, John Stickney, John Stolarik, William Stokes, Brian Stoner, Brian Stower, Bill Stroup, Dennis Strasser Sr., Robert E. Straub, Lee Sturgell, Sharlene S. Sullivan, William Sullivan, Jack E. Surline, Wayne J. Surline, Fred Sutherland, Alex Svincov, Claire M. Svitak, Richard E. Svitak, John M. Sweeney, Leona L. Sweeney, Martin Swiecicki, Stephen S. Swift, Paul T. Syers Jr., Stan Szumel, Stanley Szumel, Irv Tannenbaum, Gabriel Tatarian, Jim J. Taylor, Ken Temme, Robert Teti, Terry A. Thayer, Dudley Thomas, Paul A. Thomas, Charles F. Thompson, Mary Thompson, Richard G. Thrash Jr., Vera H. Tierno, Michael J. Timothy.

Paul J. Tine, Robert Titus, Cal S. Tobias, Theresa Tonte, George Townsend, Jesse Trace, Christopher M. Troche, Ed Troche, Don Trouland, Don Trucano, John H. Truman, Thomas Underwood, Walt Urban, Richard Valenzuela, Charles F. Vaughan, William Vaughan, Victor Vergara, Bill Vets, Elaine M. Vets, Paul Viens, Howard A. Villalobos, Richard Vojir, Anson J. Wager Jr., Barry Wagner, Don M. Walker, Martin Waltemyer, Rob Walters, Dennis Walton, Larry Ward, Frank Watson, Bruce J. Weaver, Ashlyne M. Webb, David R. Webb, James Webb, Thomas Weber, Richard Wedman, Charles Weiss, Dick Weiss, Robert Werner, Roy West, Robert Westcott, David Wetherspoon, Robert M. Whomsley, Kenneth Wiegand, Mary Wiegand, Thomas H. Wilkie, Bill Will, Bruce A. Williams, Carl A. Williams, Roger Willig, Michael D. Wills, James Wilson, Wayne A. Wilson, Dan J. Windfelder, John J. Windfelder, Joseph Wojciechowski, Gary Wolf, Carl Woodcock, Bob Wright, Steven Wright, Bryan H. Young, John Yurkow, Larry Zack, Art Ziemer, Barbara Zimmerman, Michael Zimmerman, Richard Zimmermann, and Charles A. Zingrone.

A TRIBUTE TO SEAN SWARNER

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sean Swarner, a fellow climber and an enormously courageous young man.

When he was just 13 years old, Sean was diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease and was given a mere three months to live. With his family's support, prayer, and resolute determination, he beat the disease. Just one year later, doctors found a golf-ball sized tumor in his right lung. The diagnosis was Askin's sarcoma. This time, doctors gave him just two weeks. Again, he beat back the disease with his tremendous resolve. Still, the cancer left him with just one functioning lung.

Sean Swarner is now 30 years old. He is the only person known to have survived both

Hodgkin's disease and Askin's sarcoma. Given his unique life experience, Sean has a sense of purpose unusually focused for a young man. Sean decided to climb Mount Everest in part to prove that people facing cancer can survive and go on to accomplish things most people never even think to try. When setting out to plan his trip, he said "most of the outfitters told me that there's no way they would take a one-lung, two-time cancer survivor lunatic up the highest mountain in the world." Once he was actually on the mountain he says, "the sherpas were kind of scared too because in Nepal there is no such thing as a cancer survivor."

Sean Swarner is the only known cancer survivor to reach the summit of Mt. Everest. He has also climbed Aconcagua in Argentina, Mt. Elbrus in Russia and Mt. Kilimanjaro in Africa. He hopes to complete the "adventure grand slam" which means summiting the highest peak on each of the seven continents and visiting the North and South Poles.

Sean visits young people with cancer after each of his climbs and during his training. While this is tremendously rewarding because it lifts their spirits, it is also very difficult because he is so familiar with what the kids are going through. Still, his example gives them a role model who has conquered what they are going through and hopefully gives them inspiration to believe that they too can conquer the mountains before them.

Sean Swarner's courage and kindness are qualities to which we should all aspire. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Sean Swarner—a great climber, Coloradan and human being. I wish him continued success on his future climbs.

NEW YORK'S CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY—CONCERNS AND OPPORTUNITIES

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, June 3rd I had the pleasure to attend an event sponsored by Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion Jr., NY CaribNews, and the Bronx Overall Economic Development Corporation. The event was entitled Caribbean NYC: The Future is Today, and it brought together hundreds of individuals to discuss issues of importance to New York's ever-growing Caribbean community.

Issues such as immigration policy, entrepreneurship, and Caribbean natural disaster relief, were discussed at the event and served to remind those in attendance of the ties that bind the Caribbean population of New York, and the opportunities that we have yet to exploit.

Without question, the New York City area holds the largest Caribbean population in the United States. The metro area boasts approximately 1.5 million Spanish Caribbean residents, including nearly 900,000 Puerto Ricans, and 600,000 Dominicans. According to the CUNY Albany, the Dominican population alone grew over 70 percent from 1990–2000. The New York area also encompasses more than 800,000 residents from the English-speaking Caribbean, a population which grew over 40

percent in the last decade. In New York City itself, three of the top five immigrant groups are from the Caribbean: Dominican Republic (1st), Jamaica (3rd), Guyana (4th).

Though Caribbean New Yorkers may speak with different accents and languages, and have cultural practices unique to each, they all share a desire to succeed in this country. Their unbreakable work ethic and entrepreneurial spirit has provided a cornerstone for our city's growth and success for more than half a century.

This entrepreneurial spirit can be found throughout our city. One example is the story of Lowell Hawthorne, and the "Golden Krust" food franchise. The company, which specializes in making Jamaican patties, started 15 years ago in a small bakery in the Bronx, and has since expanded into a chain of 80 franchises throughout the New York area. The company now has plans to expand across the East Coast, before going nationwide. If Golden Krust stays with their plan the Jamaican patty may one day become as omnipresent in America as the hamburger, pizza, or taco. The entrepreneurial spirit of this community will only grow, as they become increasingly integrated into the socio-economic fabric of our city.

Another factor which binds the Caribbean community is their common concern for their home nations. The Caribbean continues to face many critical issues related to natural disasters, economic development, and HIV/AIDS. The U.S. Government has sought to assist in addressing this issue, but more is needed.

Several hurricanes and tropical storms hit nations across the Caribbean in the 2004 hurricane season causing billions of dollars in damage, and killing thousands.

I was joined by other members of the Congressional Black Caucus in urging the Bush Administration and Congress to maximize their Caribbean Hurricane relief effort. These disasters caused long-term damage to the agricultural and tourism sectors of the region, so it will continue to require our assistance moving forward. In addition, recent reports by U.S. government sources have predicted that the 2005 Hurricane season will likely be worse than 2004, so the U.S. must stand ready to adequately assist our neighbors in what promises to be a trying hurricane season.

We must also closely examine how our policies might hinder the region's recovery. One such hindrance is the Bush Administration's proposed Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative. The initiative, which will require all travelers to and from the Caribbean, and Bermuda to have a passport to enter or re-enter the United States, is being imposed on the Caribbean before other regions in the Hemisphere.

With a large percentage of U.S. visitors to the Caribbean not utilizing a passport when they travel, it can be expected that the new requirements will have a negative impact on Caribbean tourism, as many U.S. tourists may choose vacation options that entail less hassle.

In addition, the U.S. must continue to increase non-emergency assistance. Though U.S. assistance to the Caribbean has increased in recent years, it still lags behind the amounts given to the Caribbean during the 1980's. The Cold War is over, but the Caribbean still faces many threats to its development and security.

The growing impact of narco-trafficking is increasingly evident, and will continue unless

the U.S. continues to help the Caribbean in its development objectives. Equally important is the ability of the Caribbean to keep its borders secure in the post 9-11 environment. With these countries burdened by slow economic development, and annual crises arising from natural disasters, they will be increasingly hard pressed to invest in the border security measures which hold implications for them and United States.

The United States must also continue to help the Caribbean wage the war against HIV/AIDS, as the epidemic in the region continues to grow. Infection rates are among the highest outside of sub-Saharan Africa, and an estimated 430,000 people in the region are living with HIV. Many experts have predicted that this will significantly retard the economic and political growth of the region if it continues on its present course. Overall U.S. HIV assistance to the Caribbean is estimated at \$53 million for 2005, but this is largely due to the two Caribbean nations that are covered by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

As such, more countries in the region, besides Haiti and Guyana, should be placed under the PEPFAR program. There has been activity in Congress to bring about this result, but legislation has yet been approved.

Again, I thank the organizers of the Caribbean NYC event; it not only illuminated the great strides that have been taken by the Caribbean Community in New York, but also the need for the U.S. to remain committed to assisting the Caribbean region—a region near to our shores and to our hearts.

HONORING AN INNOVATIVE COMPANY—HEMCON

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an innovative company in my Congressional district—HemCon.

Today, HemCon is being recognized by the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command for developing one of the 2004 "Top 10 Greatest Inventions." This is a prestigious accolade, and HemCon is deserving of this award.

Hemcon has developed a revolutionary bandage that has the potential to change medicine as we know it. More importantly, it has the potential to save countless lives. According to military physicians, 90 percent of soldiers killed in war die before they reach a medical facility, most often because of significant blood loss. Yet it is this exact situation that the military considers the main preventable cause of death in military action.

The HemCon bandage is revolutionary in that it can stop severe hemorrhaging based on the use of a natural product called chitosan, a substance found in the shells of shrimp, crab, and other crustaceans. This chitosan material has the ability to bond with red blood cells and form a clot that stops bleeding. In October 2002, based on the strength of this product, the HemCon Bandage was ushered through the FDA and it is the second fastest approval of a medical device granted by the Agency. It was approved in only 48 hours.

Today, the use of the HemCon Bandage is considered standard treatment for severe hemorrhaging, and it is being used by the military to save the lives of our brave men and women in Afghanistan and Iraq. It is also being used by first responders in emergency medical situations to control blood loss.

Jonathan Swift wrote, "Discovery consists of seeing what everybody has seen and thinking what nobody else has thought." Dr. Kenton Gregory and Dr. Bill Wiesmann are a testament to this statement. Through their research, they have taken a natural product that had been overlooked for too long and used it in a revolutionary new way. Because of their efforts, lives have already been saved.

I applaud, Dr. Gregory, Dr. Wiesmann, and the staff of HemCon for their work, and I congratulate them for this very deserving award.

CONGRATULATING THE 2005 NCAA MEN'S DIVISION I NATIONAL LACROSSE CHAMPIONS

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the 2005 NCAA Men's Division I National Lacrosse Champions, the Johns Hopkins University Bluejays.

Johns Hopkins University is the cradle of college lacrosse. Their faculty, fans, alumni, students, coaches and players have waited since 1987 to regain their position as the premier lacrosse program in the country. For three out of the last four years, the Hopkins Bluejays have made it to the final four, but the championship has remained just out of reach.

Under the leadership of Coach Dave Pietramala, seniors on the team played all four years never losing a game on Homewood Field at Hopkins, and this year had a perfect season, 16-0.

Coach Pietramala also has the distinction of being the only coach to have won a national championship as a player and a coach. Coach Pietramala was a four time All-American defensive player on Hopkins' 1987 championship team.

Six members of the team are my constituents: Joe Benson, Benson Erwin, Kyle Harrison, Kevin Huntley, Nolan Matthews and Matt Pinto. All deserve congratulations for their contributions to the team. Kevin Huntley and Nolan Matthews, sons of former Hopkins' All-Americans and Joe Benson, brother of a Hopkins All-American will be returning to Homewood Field to carry on the winning tradition. Also returning will be Jesse Schwartzman, who was awarded most valuable player of the NCAA tournament when in the championship game his skill as goal keeper kept Hopkins in the game and eliminated threats by the Duke Blue Devils.

This year's graduates Kyle Harrison and Benson Erwin are best friends, great players and outstanding role models. This year, after being named a Tewaaraton Award finalist for the past two years, Kyle, a three time All-American, won the Award given to the most outstanding male varsity collegiate lacrosse player in the nation. Benson was the unsung hero of the team. His work ethic and reliability

made him the man to turn to when hope seemed lost in the final seconds of the semi-final game. A young man of few words, Benson leads by example.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Johns Hopkins University Men's 2005 Lacrosse Team for their outstanding achievements as players and students. I ask you to join in saying congratulations and "Go Blue."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HENRY J. HYDE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, on the evening of June 7, 2005, I was absent for several votes and regret missing them. Had I been present, I would have voted: Vote No. 228, Historical significance of Mexican holiday Cinco de Mayo, "yea;" Vote No. 229, Manifestation of anti-Semitism by UN member states, "yea."

HONORING PARTICIPANTS OF NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the participants of the 2005 National History Day who will be in Washington DC June 16–19th. Specifically I would like to congratulate Filip Maksimovic, Alex Grossman, Mary Kate Quinn, Andrew Hastie, Megan Duffy, Natasha Steinmann, Connie Ge, Anika Megan McEwan, and all students from Colorado who competed in Colorado History Day and qualified to compete on the national level.

Students from grade 6 through 12 have been participating in National History Day for the past 25 years. In Colorado 4000 students produced dramatic performances, museum-style exhibits, multimedia documentaries or research papers all focusing on a central theme of Communication in History: The Key to Understanding. The program encourages students to take advantage of primary historical resources available to them. Students in this program learn how to analyze a variety of primary sources such as photographs, letters, diaries, magazines, maps, artifacts, sound recordings, and motion pictures. This significant academic exercise encourages intellectual growth while helping students to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills that will help them manage and use information, now and in the future.

At the Colorado History Day State Competition on April 23, 2005, held at the University of Colorado at Boulder, 54 students qualified to represent Colorado at the National History Day competition at the University of Maryland, College Park. The projects from students in the 2nd Congressional District ranged from "Communication in Irish Step Dance," to "Communication through Hobo Code Signs during the Great Depression." These students represent excellence in their study of history and will be able to continue to utilize the skills

gained through their experience with National History Day into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Filip Maksimovic, Alex Grossman, Mary Kate Quinn, Andrew Hastie, Megan Duffy, Natasha Steinmann, Connie Ge, and Anika Megan McEwan for their achievements at the Colorado History Day and wish them good luck as they compete in the 2005 National History Day.

TRIBUTE TO ROCHE ON THE OCCA- SION OF THEIR 100TH ANNIVER- SARY

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 100th Anniversary of Roche, a true trailblazer in healthcare. Roche is a specialty care company employing over 10,000 people in the U.S. and 60,000 globally. I am pleased that Florence, South Carolina is home to Roche Carolina, Inc., which employs over 270 people, all of whom are dedicated to improving the quality of healthcare for millions of people,

For a century now, Roche has invested in advanced research and manufacturing techniques that have yielded breakthroughs in healthcare. Founded in Switzerland in 1896, Roche's roots in America are deep and strong, dating back to the opening of its New York office: in 1905. From its start in Manhattan, Roche has extended its reach to nine sites across the United States in South Carolina, New Jersey, Indiana, California and Colorado.

In Florence, the employees of Roche Carolina work in one of the most advanced pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities in the world. They produce a potent oral antiviral that is a promising weapon against the threat of pandemic influenza. In addition, it manufactures a novel oral medication for cancer patients—allowing them to be treated at home and greatly improving their quality of life. These are just two examples of their revolutionary therapies used to treat millions of people every day.

I also would like to applaud Roche Carolina for being such an active corporate citizen. In Florence, Roche Carolina has established a High Performance Partnership with Lester Elementary School through which their workers offer math tutoring to 4th grade students. Further, Roche Carolina has endowed a chemistry scholarship and initiated a student exchange program at Francis Marion University. These efforts help build the Florence community in ways that will resonate for years to come, and they set an example for us all.

I commend the people of Roche Carolina in Florence and Roche employees worldwide for their outstanding achievements, and wish them the very best on this special 100th Anniversary.

HONORING DEBORAH JIN AND
LINDA CORDELL

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two women, Deborah Jin and Linda Cordell, from Boulder, Colorado, who were recently elected to the National Academy of Sciences.

Deborah Jin, a physicist at the National Institute of Standards and Technology and an associate adjunct professor in the Physics Department at the University of Colorado, is one of the youngest women elected to the National Academy of Sciences.

She came to Boulder as a postdoctoral student in 1995. In 2003 she won what is commonly called the "genius grant," a \$500,000 MacArthur Fellowship for her work with ultracold atoms. One of the three criteria for receiving this award is that the candidate show exceptional creativity. Dr. Jin's career is a testament to her creativity. In 2004, she and her team won an international race to create a fermionic condensate made from a tiny cluster of super-cold potassium atoms which is used to better understand super conductors.

Linda Cordell is the director of the University of Colorado Museum and a professor of archaeology at CU. Her research interests include the archaeology of Pueblo people in the southwest, specifically the agricultural and settlement strategies of ancestral Pueblo peoples of New Mexico. She also studies how large villages supported themselves in times of unpredictable precipitation.

Members of the National Academy of Sciences make up the most accomplished scientists in our country and election to the academy is one of the highest honors for any scientist. At a time when we are seeing fewer young people, particularly women, entering into the science disciplines, these scientists are taking their creativity and skill to inspire our youth.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Deborah Jin and Linda Cordell for their achievements in science and offer congratulations on their new post as members of the National Academy of Sciences.

JERUSALEM DAY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the Jewish people in Jerusalem and throughout the world in celebration of Yom Yerushalayim, Jerusalem Day.

On June 7, 1967 the 28th of Iyar 5727, the Israel Defense Forces in the heat of the Six-Day War, unified the city of Jerusalem under Jewish control. At approximately 10 a.m. on that day, the earth shattering proclamation "The Temple Mount is ours, It is in our hands" reverberated in the hearts of Jews across the globe. The dream of once again being able to visit the Kotel, The Western Wall, and other previously inaccessible holy sites of Jerusalem, had become a reality. In the subsequent years to follow, Jewish people from

every nation on earth would make pilgrimages to the holy city of Jerusalem to visit its revered sites and offer their heartfelt prayers.

Every stone in Jerusalem is saturated with Jewish history, every street has some story and saga of biblical times and modern times. Even though Jerusalem is a city laden with rich archeological artifacts, and remnants of ancient times, it has become a thriving city that has preserved its historic nature and adapted to modern life. Beautiful shopping malls, fresh food markets and restaurants are commonplace in Jerusalem, which emphasize the cultural advancements Israel has made in such a short period of time.

Perhaps one of the most moving aspects of modern day Jerusalem is its abundance of Yeshivas, Kollals and the prominence of Jewish religious life. It is truly inspiring to see Jews, young and old immersed in the deep study of Jewish texts. Many Hasidic sects and other Orthodox institutions based in my district have satellite branches in Jerusalem and quite a few of my young constituents study Judaism in Jerusalem and return to the United States invigorated from their experiences.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize this very jubilant day and reaffirm my unflinching support for the City of Jerusalem and the State of Israel.

IN HONOR OF THE CALIFORNIA
STRAWBERRY COMMISSION

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary organization based in my community: the California Strawberry Commission. Since 1994, the Commission's California Strawberry Scholarship Program has awarded numerous students with scholarships to show the industry's appreciation to the farm workers whose jobs are a vital part of the strawberry industry's success.

Students receiving a scholarship from the Commission are entering their first year in colleges and universities throughout the nation. To qualify, applicants must have at least one parent who has been employed as a strawberry farm worker for the past two consecutive seasons. The California Strawberry Scholarship Program has awarded over \$183,000 to 264 children of strawberry farm workers, giving these students the opportunity to achieve their full potential. This year alone, they have awarded \$32,500 to 34 high school seniors. Each student has tremendous potential and these scholarships give them the opportunity to excel as first-year students in colleges and universities throughout the nation.

In addition to the Strawberry Scholarship Program, in 1995 the Strawberry Commission implemented the California Strawberry Growers' Scholarship Fund. The California Strawberry Growers' Scholarship Fund is funded by California strawberry farmers and allied industry members to help children of strawberry farm workers to continue their college education. To date, the Fund has awarded over \$349,000 to 165 students. This year 65 continuing college students were awarded a total of \$68,000 by the California Strawberry Growers' Scholarship Fund.

Through the hard work of California's strawberry farm workers, generous contributions from strawberry industry leaders, and the commitment of the California Strawberry Commission, a new generation of students is able to achieve its dreams. Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to recognize the California Strawberry Commission today.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR.
SPALDING WATHEN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Spalding Wathen of Fresno, California. Mr. Wathen served his country and his community with remarkable distinction. He is survived by his wife Della Ann Wathen and five daughters, Judy, Shelley, Leslie, Terry and Cindy. On this day, we mourn his passing, but also celebrate his life.

Born in Fresno on March 1, 1925, Mr. Wathen attended Roosevelt High School. Upon graduation he joined the military and served as a Navy pilot in World War II. After the war, Mr. Wathen returned to California where he continued his education at the University of California, Berkeley and received a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering. Mr. Wathen was a member of the Chi Epsilon and Tau Beta Pi Engineering Scholastic Fraternities and graduated at the top of his class.

Upon returning to Fresno, Mr. Wathen received his contractor and real estate broker licenses. His life is a fitting example of the motto: "Hard work pays off." Mr. Wathen was Chief Executive Officer of Wathen Brothers, Headliner Homes and Mansionette Homes. His businesses are well known and respected for their committed effort to combine fine workmanship with affordable housing.

Mr. Wathen's business endeavors and civic mindedness brought him into contact with many community groups who recognized and applauded his efforts. He served as the President of the Builders Industry Association four times and was inducted into the West Coast Builders Association Hall of Fame in 1996. Mr. Wathen was also one of a select number of builders who were granted the Oscar Spano Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Within the community, Mr. Wathen will be remembered as a true visionary and a strong employer of local citizens. While Mr. Wathen had a keen eye for business ventures, he was also a community advocate who dedicated himself to giving back to the community that had allowed him to succeed. His numerous donations include the Fresno State University Tennis Center, the 33 acres of land upon which St. Agnes Medical Center was built, and the 10-acre site for the new Holy Spirit Catholic Church. Mr. Wathen was also a founding member of the Board of Directors for the Bank of Fresno.

The passing of Spalding Wathen has left a community in mourning. We have lost a passionate businessperson, a true leader and a committed advocate. His memory will live on, however, in the many lives he touched along the way.

PUBLIC SAFETY TAX CUT ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Public Safety Tax Cut Act. This legislation will achieve two important public policy goals. First, it will effectively overturn a ruling of the Internal Revenue Service which has declared as taxable income the waiving of fees by local governments who provide service for public safety volunteers.

Many local governments use volunteer firefighters and auxiliary police either in place of, or as a supplement to, their public safety professionals. Often as an incentive to would-be volunteers, the local entities might waive all or a portion of the fees typically charged for city services such as the provision of drinking water, sewerage charges, or debris pick up. Local entities make these decisions for the purpose of encouraging folks to volunteer, and seldom do these benefits come anywhere near the level of a true compensation for the many hours of training and service required of the volunteers. This, of course, not even to mention the fact that these volunteers could very possibly be called into a situation where they may have to put their lives on the line.

Rather than encouraging this type of volunteerism, which is so crucial, particularly to America's rural communities, the IRS has decided that the provision of the benefits described above amount to taxable income. Not only does this adversely affect the financial position of the volunteer by foisting new taxes about him or her, it has in fact led local entities to stop providing these benefits, thus taking away a key tool they have used to recruit volunteers. That is why the IRS ruling in this instance has a substantial deleterious impact on the spirit of American volunteerism. How far could this go? For example, would consistent application mean that a local Salvation Army volunteer be taxed for the value of a complimentary ticket to that organization's annual county dinner? This is obviously bad policy.

This legislation would rectify this situation by specifically exempting these types of benefits from federal taxation.

Next, this legislation would also provide paid professional police and fire officers with a \$1,000 per year tax credit. These professional public safety officers put their lives on the line each and every day, and I think we all agree that there is no way to properly compensate them for the fabulous services they provide. In America we have a tradition of local law enforcement and public safety provision. So, while it is not the role of our federal government to increase the salaries of these, it certainly is within our authority to increase their take-home pay by reducing the amount of money that we take from their pockets via federal taxation, and that is something this bill specifically does as well.

President George Bush has called on Americans to volunteer their time and energy to enhancing public safety. Shouldn't Congress do its part by reducing taxes that discourage public safety volunteerism? Shouldn't Congress also show its appreciation to police officers and firefighters by reducing their taxes? I believe the answer to both of these questions is

a resounding "yes" and therefore I am proud to introduce the Public Safety Tax Cut Act. I request that my fellow Members join in support of this key legislation.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1815) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today with grave concerns in regard to the deficiencies of this National Defense Authorization Act. It is truly unfortunate that the brave men and women of our Armed Forces are fighting around the world while the Department of Defense is in the current state it is in. Leadership must be accountable for the actions of the Armed Forces; the unfortunate events taking place in Iraq have caused our Nation irreparable harm.

I am most outraged by the fact that there will be no consideration of the Taylor amendment on TRICARE for reservists, the Salazar amendment on ending the Military Families Tax, and the Marshall amendment on ending the Disabled Veterans Tax. These amendments are three key provisions in the GI Bill of Rights for the 21st Century, which House Democrats unveiled in March. It seems blatant, that the Rules Committee would not allow the full body to consider these vital amendments which could have greatly strengthened this Defense Authorization.

H.R. 1815 authorizes \$441.6 billion, slightly less than the President's request and the total provided for by the budget resolution for FY 2005. The total is \$21 billion, 5 percent more than the current regular authorized and appropriated level. This does not even include the \$75.9 billion in FY 2005 emergency supplemental defense funds appropriated last month for operations in Iraq. In addition, this measure also authorizes an additional \$49.1 billion in expectation of another supplemental budget request for the war in Iraq later this year. This brings the bill's authorization total to \$490.7 billion.

This measure continues the spending by providing \$79.1 billion for weapons procurement, a full \$1.1 billion more than the president's request; \$69.5 billion for research and development, another \$113 million more than the request; \$124.3 billion for operations and maintenance, \$2.6 billion less than the president's request; \$108.8 billion for personnel, slightly less than requested; \$12.2 billion for military construction and family housing; and \$17 billion for weapons-related and environmental-cleanup activities of the Energy Department.

If Congress provides the full amount in the FY 2006 budget resolution—including the \$50 billion in emergency spending for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan—defense spending in FY 2006 will total about 55 percent of the entire

federal discretionary budget. The percentage could rise even higher if more than \$50 billion is provided for operations in Iraq later this year. If the administration's request is approved, overall defense spending, in real terms, would be more than 20 percent higher than the average Cold War budget.

The sad truth is that when compared to other nations around the world, you quickly realize that our military spending is not about defense needs as much as it is about overkill. The nearly \$500 billion expected to be provided for defense this year—assuming another supplemental—is only slightly less than the \$527 billion estimated by the Center for Arms Control and Nonproliferation as currently being spent by other nations combined, including China (\$56 billion), France (\$40 billion), Great Britain (\$49 billion) and Japan (\$45 billion). Furthermore, when comparing U.S. defense spending to those countries determined by the Defense Department as most likely to threaten the United States, the difference is even greater. Such rogue states, including Iran (which spent \$3.5 billion), North Korea (\$5.5 billion), Syria (\$1.6 billion), Cuba (\$1.2 billion) and Sudan (\$500 million). Clearly, we are not only the world's leader in military spending, but now we are determined to lap the field many times over.

It's just disgraceful that many so-called advocates of fiscal responsibility talk about discretionary spending for federal programs when they represent only a tiny sliver of spending compared to our military spending. While we continue to allocate funds for this costly war, our federal debt continues to soar and that debt continues to be owned by foreign nations. We are now borrowing \$1 trillion every 20 months and the federal debt will soon exceed \$8 trillion. The Japanese own more than \$800 billion of that debt, the People's Republic of China more than \$250 billion and all our foreign debt continues to explode.

It is truly unfortunate that this Defense Authorization continues this Administration's policy of having misplaced priorities. Instead of directing more money for proper planning in Iraq, or for greater protection equipment for our troops, or maybe for greater pay raises for our troops; this Authorization provides \$7.9 billion for ballistic-missile defense programs—\$100 million more than the administration's request. Missile defense systems are not new, in fact they have been discussed for decades. The truth is that missile defense systems have proven to be overly complex, unreliable, and often been little more than pipe dreams. Why in good conscience, in this time of budget constraints and increased need, would we allocate even more money for failed programs? There are more responsible ways to budget this money. Money from the Defense Authorization should go to our men and women in the Armed Forces who actually defend our Nation instead of into programs that just waste needed funds.

I am heartened by a few provisions of this legislation. This Authorization provides an average 3.1 percent pay increase for military personnel in FY 2006, equal to the President's request, and extends certain special pay and bonuses for reserve personnel. Our men and women in the Armed Forces deserve these pay increases, in fact they deserve much more for the sacrifice they are making for our Nation abroad. The bill provides added funds for increased protection for U.S. troops in Iraq,

including funding for up-armored Humvees, tactical wheeled-vehicle recapitalization and modernization programs, night-vision devices, and improvised explosive device (IED) jammers. The war in Iraq gets more dangerous by the day and the Pentagon won't even give this Congress a timeline for our exit. As always, this leaves our brave men and women of the Armed Forces and their families in the lurch. We as a Congress owe it to them to give them more answers, instead of only providing more questions. Unfortunately, while this Authorization gives a little comfort to our Armed Forces abroad, it really falls far short of what we owe to our Nation's bravest.

A TRIBUTE TO GERALDINE BAKER

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Geraldine Baker for her academic accomplishments and contributions to the field of education.

Geraldine "Gerry" Baker was born in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, New York, and is one of the twin daughters of Marie G. and the late Henry W. Baker. Ms. Baker was raised in the Concord Baptist Church of Christ in Brooklyn. Here she was greatly influenced by the Reverend Dr. Gardner C. Taylor's ministry of activism and leadership and studied classical music under the tutelage of the late John T. Lucas, organist. Following the tradition of great Black families, Ms. Baker's parents inspired her life-long pursuit of excellence.

Ms. Baker is a distinguished alumna of the New York City Public School System. At an early age she exhibited leadership skills when she was elected class president at Eastern District High School. She was later selected to participate in a pilot program under the auspices of the Carnegie High School Language program, and won a National Defense Foreign Language Fellowship in Chinese for the summer program at Columbia University. She then pursued a Bachelor of Arts in anthropology and linguistics at CUNY Richmond College.

Ms. Baker culminated her education at Pace University, where she received a Master of Science in Education Administration and Supervision and was accepted into the Phi Delta Kappa organization. She has also participated in Harvard University's Graduate School of Education in the Principals' Center for Critical Issues of Urban Education, completed a three-year Partnership for the Prevention of Violence Training Program at the Harvard School of Public Health, and studied at NOVA Southeastern University.

Ms. Baker is now a senior staff member at the Edward R. Murrow High School Special Education Department. Her teaching career has spanned the spectrum of the education profession from teaching the gifted and talented to the emotionally, neurologically and physically challenged. In addition, she has been certified by the New York State Department of Education, as an Impartial Hearing Officer, to adjudicate cases on special education problems. In her spare time, Ms. Baker taught at CUNY La Guardia Community College in a specially funded program to provide academic

and career curricula for developmentally delayed adults. She has also begun working with Dr. Michael Carrera, pioneer child advocate and sexuality expert, who inspired her to serve as a member of the Murrow HIV/AIDS health Resource team.

While Ms. Baker continues to be a source of inspiration and support to fellow professionals, paraprofessionals, interns and parents, she is committed to pursuing excellence in academic performance for her students and other teenagers outside of the Murrow community. She also addresses health, safety, moral issues and personal growth of those in her learning community and interacts with community service and agencies to advocate for students and their families.

As an educator, Ms. Baker has avowed a personal commission to touch the lives of all her students by encouraging their ability to fulfill their hopes and dreams in the pursuit of personal, academic and social excellence. In fact, she secured donations from the private sector to establish the novel "Angel Network" in order to provide disadvantaged young women with contemporary, designer outfits and accessories, at no cost, for their proms, graduations and various other affairs.

Above all, her mission, established during childhood, to inspire young persons to follow in her footsteps, remains strong and for these reasons we honor her today.

IN HONOR OF DR. MARTHA
HERZOG

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Martha Herzog, who retired on June 3, 2005 from her position as Vice-Chancellor of Evaluation and Standards at the Defense Language Institute, Foreign Language Center here in the 17th district of California which I represent. Within the executive branch of our government there are many employees who, through their actions and their leadership, have an enduring impact on the federal government, their organization and their fellow employees. One such person of outstanding talent and lasting achievement throughout her career is Dr. Martha Herzog.

Before beginning her 31 years as a federal employee, Dr. Herzog received her PhD in English from The University of Texas at Austin. She taught writing at that great institution and performed similar duties at the Austin Community College and the San Antonio campus of Webster University before beginning her career in 1974 as a Training Instructor in San Antonio, Texas at the Defense Language Institute, English Language Center. In 1977 she was promoted and transferred to the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center at the Presidio of Monterey, California. She initially assumed a position in the DLIFLC Testing Division and subsequent promotions led to her serving as the Dean of the School of Romance languages, the Dean of the School of Central European Languages and finally, the Dean of the DLIFLC Korean School. She also served as the Assistant Provost for Curriculum and Instruction. In 1998 she was promoted to her current position as Vice-Chancellor for Evaluation and Standards.

As an educator and a leader, she has been able to motivate those who served under her as well as those she served with. She was instrumental in creating greater awareness of different learning styles for each student and encouraging more professional training for the instructional staff as well as always providing an attentive ear to her subordinates. Perhaps one of her more enduring accomplishments was her work on creating the Faculty Personnel System at DLIFLC. Her efforts along with those of others, has enabled the establishment of a rank in person, merit-based pay system that rewards those teachers who make the greatest contributions to the DLIFLC mission.

In her capacity as the head of the DLIFLC test development and program evaluation, she revised the testing materials to meet the pressing needs of our military for quality linguists who must know a second or third language to carry out their duties. For the past ten years she has served on and headed the NATO Bureau for International Language Coordination working group for testing and assessment, involving over 30,000 military linguists each year. During this time she provided great leadership to that committee in revising the language descriptors for the NATO STANG 6001. Additionally, she designed and taught a two-week language-testing seminar for newly admitted nations to NATO. Furthermore, throughout her career, she has been an active contributor to her field's professional publications. She has written several articles and provided many papers to the American Council for Teaching Foreign Language, the Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages and the Defense Exchange Committee on Language Efforts. She also has given extensive and long-time service to the U.S. government's Interagency Language Roundtable.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to highlight Dr. Herzog's dedicated service to our country throughout the years. As she retires from active government service she shows all who know her a model of accomplishment and service. In all her service, she has given the very best of mature leadership, innovation, and concrete results. I join my colleagues in wishing her the best in her retirement.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR.
FRED MARTELLA

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Mr. Fred Martella of Hanford, California. He is survived by his daughters, Loretta Montgomery, Barbara Caviezel and Celine Henning; his brother Art Martella; and his sisters Virginia Ribeiro, Dorothy Vierra and Violet Vierra. Mr. Martella's passing marks the end of a golden era.

Mr. Martella is remembered by all in the Hanford community as a kind, giving and persistently optimistic citizen. He met each challenge in life with a unique energy and spirit.

Mr. Martella's commitment to his family dates back to 1933 when he quit high school to dedicate his time to milking cows on the family farm. Undaunted by not having received a high school diploma, he successfully ran the

farm and dairy, a testament to the adage that hard work and perseverance pay off.

As the years passed, Mr. Martella became well-known in the community through his volunteer activities, civic engagements, and random acts of kindness. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus, Elks Lodge, Sons of Italy, California Holstein Association, and Kings County Citizens for a Healthy Environment.

Despite managing the farm and dairy and participating in numerous organizations, Mr. Martella miraculously found time to help others. When it came to his attention that St. Rose-McCarthy School did not have computers, he helped collect \$80,000 in donations for the school. He also assisted students of the Future Farmers of America association by finding buyers for Holstein heifers and cleaning up the grounds at the Kings County Fair. Mr. Martella's record of community service goes on forever, and the community honored him many times for his efforts.

Mr. Martella was Dairyman of the Year twice, Distinguished Citizen of the Year in 1993 and received countless other 4-H and Future Farmers of America Awards. Yet, in the face of all of these awards, he remained a humble servant of the community.

Fred Martella had a zest for life and an infectious smile and sense of humor. He serves as a prime example of how we should all live our lives. Although he will be greatly missed, his memory will live on among the many people whose lives he touched.

POLICE SECURITY PROTECTION
ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to help America's law enforcement officers by introducing the Police Security Protection Act. This legislation provides police officers a tax credit for the purchase of armored vests.

Professional law enforcement officers put their lives on the line each and every day. Reducing the tax liability of law enforcement officers so they can afford armored vests is one of the best ways Congress can help and encourage these brave men and women. After all, an armored vest could literally make the difference between life or death for a police officer, I hope my colleagues will join me in helping our nation's law enforcement officers by cosponsoring the Police Security Protection Act.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION
ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 25, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1815) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2006 for military activities of the Department of Defense,

to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today unfortunately with the news that the Rules Committee rejected several major Democratic amendments that could have greatly strengthened the National Defense Authorization Act. It is sad to see that so many relevant and necessary amendments to this Defense Authorization were not ruled in order. Among the most relevant amendment were those submitted by my distinguished colleagues including Mr. WAXMAN's amendment on government contracting, Mr. SKELTON's amendment on women in combat, Mr. TIERNEY's amendment on the Truman Commission, Mr. MARKEY's amendment on torture, Mr. SALAZAR's amendment on Survivors Benefit Plans, Mr. TAYLOR's amendment on TRICARE, Mr. MARSHALL's amendment on concurrent receipt and Mr. SPRATT's amendment on nonproliferation. It is truly unfortunate that such pertinent amendments were not ruled in order and debated by this entire body. When the amendment process is compromised like it has been here then the legislative process suffers and unfortunately that means our Armed Forces will suffer as a result of this Defense Authorization.

I am most outraged by the fact that there will be no consideration of the Taylor amendment on TRICARE for reservists, the Salazar amendment on ending the Military Families Tax, and the Marshall amendment on ending the Disabled Veterans Tax. These amendments are three key provisions in the GI Bill of Rights for the 21st Century, which House Democrats unveiled in March. It seems blatant, that the Rules Committee would not allow the full body to consider these vital amendments which could have greatly strengthened this Defense Authorization.

My colleague Mr. TAYLOR's amendment would have provided full TRICARE to all members of the Guard and Reserve and their families. Currently, the Guard and Reserve are covered by TRICARE only when they are mobilized for active duty. Under the Taylor amendment, all members of the Guard and Reserve could buy into TRICARE for an affordable monthly premium. The Taylor amendment was in fact adopted by the Armed Services Committee by a vote of 32 to 30. However, after the mark-up, Chairman HUNTER stripped the amendment from the bill based on a violation of the Budget Act, instead of allowing Representative TAYLOR to make a slight modification to his amendment which would have addressed the violation. It is the slightly modified version that Representative TAYLOR had sought the Rules Committee to make in order and which the Rules Committee has egregiously rejected for consideration. It is a travesty indeed because this amendment could have done so much good for so many Guardsmen and Reservists. The simple fact is that more than 433,000 of our National Guard and Reserves have been called up over the past two and one-half years. Reserve Components make up almost 50 percent of our forces in Iraq. It is time that we as a body recognize their service to our Nation by providing TRICARE for Reserve Component personnel on a permanent basis. It is disgraceful that this Congress will not demonstrate the level of commitment for its citizen-soldiers that they so richly deserve.

I am also greatly disturbed by the fact that there will be no consideration of Mr. SPRATT's

amendment on nuclear nonproliferation. The amendment offered by Mr. SPRATT would have provided an additional \$80 million for nuclear nonproliferation activities. These vital activities would have been paid for by a modest decrease to future silo construction of ground-based missile defense. Clearly, this Administration and this Congress would rather waste money on futile missile defense systems that have proven not to work instead of safeguarding against the proliferation of nuclear weapons which pose a threat to our entire Nation and indeed the world. I can not even fathom how so many officials elected by the people can have such misplaced priorities. I can only pray that clearer judgment will prevail one day soon before we have to face the consequences of these misplaced priorities.

Mr. SALAZAR's amendment would have ended the Military Families Tax. Currently, the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) penalizes survivors, mostly widows of those killed as a result of combat. These widows lose their survivor benefits if they receive Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits because their spouse has died of a service-connected injury. The Salazar amendment would have ended this offset requirement—the Military Families Tax—for the 53,000 spouses who continue to pay this unfair tax, which affects families that have made the greatest sacrifice for our country. Again, I find it disgraceful that this Congress will not have the opportunity to aid those military families that are penalized under the Military Families Tax and who have made the ultimate sacrifice to our Nation.

Mr. MARSHALL's amendment would have completely ended the Disabled Veterans' Tax for about 400,000 military retirees who were left behind under the partial repeal which the GOP-controlled Congress reluctantly enacted in 2003 and would speed up the end of the Disabled Veterans' Tax for the remaining disabled military retirees. For almost two years Democrats have been working to end the Disabled Veterans' Tax, and we have only been partially successful because the Republican leadership has put up roadblock after roadblock to eliminating this most unfair tax. Now, the Republican leadership and the Rules Committee have completed a hat trick of disgrace by rejecting the Marshall amendment for consideration which would have completely ended the Disabled Veterans Tax for all disabled military retirees.

I can only hope in the future that such significant legislation as this will involve the debate and full consideration of all necessary and relevant amendments. The men and women of our Armed Forces and indeed the American people as a whole deserve as much.

A TRIBUTE TO JOHN I. SOUTHERLAND

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John I. Southerland for his loyal service to the community.

John I. Southerland was born in Sanford, N.C. to the late Annie Bell Southerland. He

graduated from W.B. Wicker High School in 1959, then relocated to New Jersey and later to Brooklyn, N.Y. He is married to Eva Thomas Southerland and they are the proud parents of Jonathan Southerland, Stephanie Southerland-Raimier and Nydia Southerland.

In 1968, Mr. Southerland joined the New York City Police Department. During his 27 years with the department, he earned numerous commendations and certificates. He received the Certificate of Merit for 27 years of service and a Certificate of Attendance, which is given to staff members who had not been late or absent for five more years. After retiring from the Police Department in 1995, he pursued his interest in fire safety. He then received a certificate and worked as a fire safety officer in the World Trade Center until September 11. Also during the 1990's, Mr. Southerland was installed as a Deacon, by the late Rev. Dr. Paul C. Hayes, at Mercy Seat Baptist Church of Brooklyn.

In 2001, Mr. Southerland turned his attention to community advocacy. He is a member of the Executive Board of the Community Action Project (CAP), a community organization located in East Flatbush. As a board member, he has met with local politicians to lobby against fraudulent immigration services and rampant illegal truck traffic. Currently, he and the board strive to sustain the area's economic growth through better coordination of city services, specifically sanitation and police. He is also attending Queens College to broaden his understanding of political activism to better serve his community.

Mr. Southerland is an active member of local DC 37. He was chosen as a delegate to go to Albany to meet with state representative to discuss issues pertaining to the union and its members.

He continues to show commitment to the community by visiting the sick and helping senior citizens. He is always willing to share a smile and words of encouragement with everyone he meets. As a result, Mr. Speaker, today we acknowledge John I. Southerland, an asset to the community.

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL CHAMPION KELLER HIGH SCHOOL GIRL'S SOFTBALL TEAM

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the teamwork and spirit of the State and National Champion Keller High School girls' softball team. These young women have established themselves as true champions among the citizens of Keller, Texas.

The Keller High Lady Indians Girls softball team recently won the State Championship in Austin, Texas, and was crowned National Champion by the USA Today National Fastpitch Coaches Association.

The Lady Indians have exhibited their commitment to each other and their common goals this past season by completing their District 5-5A schedule undefeated. Among their successes were four victories at the prestigious Tournament of Champions in Arizona. Throughout the season these outstanding women have shown the success that comes

from working as a team to achieve a great goal. Under the leadership of head coach Moe Fritz and assistant coach Lesley Weaver, the team—Aly Presswood, Amber Tramp, Kirsten Shortridge, Becca Byers, Brittany Cusumano, Kori Pickowitz, Michele Huffman, Kylie King, Erin McNally, Adria Park, Kati Pickowitz, Tiffanie Boone, Alisha Rams, Erin Hinojosa, Hayley Siebman, Sara LaSala, Maria Levasseur—has demonstrated the essence of the American spirit.

It is with great honor that I stand here today to recognize this group of individuals who have made their community so proud. It is this dedication and perseverance that is personified by these women that makes us certain that the future is bright for our nation and for our communities.

RECOGNIZING AMBASSADOR
RASTISLAV KACER

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Rastislav Kacer, the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the United States and welcome him to the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri. Ambassador Kacer has the distinct honor of representing one of America's closest allies. This new democracy dates back to 1993 when Slovakia peacefully seceded from Czechoslovakia in what has become known as the "Velvet Divorce." Since the beginning of the war in Iraq, the Slovak Republic has fought by our side, joining the United States under flags of red, white and blue.

Ambassador Kacer's legacy is entrenched in his efforts to promote the Slovak Republic's stature in the world and at home. He served as Director General of the Division of International Organizations and Security Policy at the Slovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs. As State Secretary with the Ministry of Defense, he was instrumental in obtaining full membership for the Slovak Republic in NATO and the European Union. He was appointed Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to the United States in July 2003 and on September 8, 2003 was named Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Slovak Republic to the United States of America.

During his first visit to the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri, the Ambassador will participate in the 20th Anniversary of the Sugar Creek Slavic Festival promoting our country's rich Slavic heritage. This is a wonderful opportunity to experience the rich traditions and cultural customs of the beautiful mountainous region now known as the Slovak Republic. The festival will feature ethnic dancing, including the polka, folk singing, and Slovakian music.

The Ambassador's agenda includes meetings with civic, business and community leaders, fostering new partnerships and renewing old initiatives. They will explore trade and cultural exchange between the heartland of the United States and the geographic heart of Europe, the Slovak Republic.

Mr. Speaker, please join with me in expressing our appreciation to Ambassador Rastislav Kacer and the Slovak Republic. This new democratic republic has gained world-

wide stature through membership in NATO and continues to grow in world recognition as they preserve their identity through culture and heritage. In Sugar Creek, and all around Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, Slovakian immigrants celebrate their roots with new generations, linking America's heartland to the heart of Europe. By preserving our past, we will foster an understanding for the future. I ask my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to the Slovak Republic and its Ambassador, Rastislav Kacer.

TRIBUTE TO MR. STEVE PACZOLT
OF LA GRANGE, IL

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding community leader in my district, Mr. Steve Paczolt, who recently completed 12 years of service with the Park District of La Grange's Board of Commissioners.

A lifelong resident of La Grange, Mr. Paczolt has helped guide the tremendous growth and improvements the Park District has enjoyed, including the community's recent approval for the construction of a new indoor recreation facility. Steve's community involvement and service goes well beyond his dedication to providing recreation opportunities for his fellow residents. He has served as leader in innumerable other organizations, including: the Rich Port YMCA Board; the H-Foundation, which raises funds for brain cancer research; the Arts and Business Council of Chicago; the Illinois Association of Park Districts; Stage Left Theater Board; the Theatre Building of Chicago Board; the Western Springs Police Department as an Auxiliary Officer; the La Grange Business Association; and West Suburban Chamber of Commerce.

Steve has also found the time to build a thriving insurance and financial services business in the community. He specializes in insuring theatrical productions and musical concerts. He has worked with some of the biggest names in show business, yet he still treats every one of his customers like a superstar. He has also served his profession as an active member of the Independent Insurance Agents of Illinois, including serving on the Education and Government Affairs and Federal Legislative committees.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in a salute to Steve Paczolt for his great service on the Park District of La Grange Board, as well as for his lifetime of dedication and service to the community of La Grange. I give him my best wishes for many more years of giving back to his community.

TRIBUTE TO KARL WALKES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Karl Walkes for his contributions to the public school system and noble service in the community.

Karl Walkes was born in Brooklyn, New York. He is the fourth of Fitz and Eileen's seven children. He grew up in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn and attended the New York City public schools. After graduating from the Brooklyn High School of Automotive Trades, Mr. Walkes was introduced to Zeke Clement, a charismatic community leader and legendary basketball coach. Through the effort of Mr. Clement, he was awarded an athletic scholarship to Virginia Union University in Richmond, Virginia where he pursued a teaching career in elementary education.

At Virginia Union University, Mr. Walkes was greatly impressed with the accessibility of the University President, Rev. Dr. Samuel D. Proctor. He watched Dr. Proctor assist students in resolving difficult problems. Most notably, conversations with Dr. Proctor and Mr. Clement inspired him to devote his adult life to helping community youth to embrace their intellect, in order to obtain the unlimited resources that are available to them.

After receiving a Bachelors Degree and completing a tour of duty in the United States Army, Mr. Walkes began a teaching career in Brooklyn at the historic Weeksville Elementary School (P.S. 243). He continued his education by completing the Master's Degree course of study programs in Elementary Education at Brooklyn College and the Administration Supervision program at The City College of New York. He worked at the historic Weeksville Elementary School for more than 32 years, serving as teacher, Dean and Assistant Principal. He has often remarked, "I knew retirement was near when the offspring of past students began registering for kindergarten and completing the sixth grade."

After retirement from the Board of Education in 1995, Mr. Walkes joined the community-based Jackie Robinson Center, JRC, after-school program full-time under the leadership of Mr. Zeke Clement. The Jackie Robinson Center, JRC, for Physical Culture, which focuses on the improvement of student academic skills, sought to encourage participation in academic, sports and cultural activities. At the JRC, Mr. Walkes functioned as the program's sports and cultural director.

His memberships and affiliation over the years include: Brooklyn USA Athletic Association Inc., Council of School Supervisors and Administrators, CSA, Retired School Supervisors and Administrators, RSSA, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Committee to Honor, NAACP, Tournament of Champions, Trustee of Community School Board District No. 16 and the St. John's Flashes.

He has received awards from: Community School District No. 16 "Teacher of the Year"; Boy Scouts of America; Jackie Robinson Center for Physical Culture; Brooklyn USA Athletic Association Inc.; National Old Timers Clubs Inc.; and Parents of the Weeksville School.

Mr. Walkes is married to Verniece Shiver Walkes. They have one son, Kevin, and presently reside in East Flatbush. He is grateful for Rev. Dr. Samuel D. Proctor and Mr. Zeke Clement who taught him through example that we must work diligently with our youth, for they are the most valuable resource that we have. Mr. Speaker, we in turn acknowledge his commitment and contributions today.

HONORING CAPTAIN WILLIAM
MICHAEL CARD

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Captain William Michael Card for his 32-year career in civil service with the Capitola Police Department.

Captain Card is retiring as Police Captain to accept the Chief of Police in position in Sheridan, Wyoming. Captain Card moved to Santa Cruz with his family in 1957, and attended various local schools, eventually graduating from San Lorenzo Valley High School and continuing his education at Cabrillo Community College and the Monterey College of Law.

Captain Card's successful career was underlined by his commitment to open communication with employees, citizens and the media. Additionally, his foresight aided in the development of a positive police service image by implementing a community oriented policing philosophy. As Police Captain, Card developed and managed several community programs and activities. He has a successful management record of improving employee productivity, morale and organizational efficiency. He was elected as Capitola's Police Officer of the Year in 1986 after receiving many commendations from staff and citizens.

Aside from his duties with the Police Department, Captain Card worked as a consultant to Cyrun Corporation, aiding them in the development of a complete software system for policing agencies. He was also a Research Associate of the BOTEK Analysis Corporation where he managed a six-month study on crime and drug importation in Puerto Rico.

Mr. Speaker, I join the Capitola Police Department in thanking Captain William Michael Card for his years of dedicated civil service and wishing him the best of luck in his further endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, June 7, I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall votes on that day.

Had I been present I would have voted the following: "yea" on rollcall vote number 228 H. Con. Res. 44—Recognizing the historical significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo; "yea" on rollcall vote number 229 H. Res. 282—Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding manifestations of anti-Semitism by United Nations member states and urging action against anti-Semitism by United Nations officials, United Nations member states, and the Government of the United States.

AMERICA'S GLOBAL IMAGE HAS
CONSEQUENCES FOR US AT HOME

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, at a national summit last month hosted by the Travel Business Roundtable and U.S. Chamber of Commerce, hundreds of travel and tourism executives gathered in Washington to discuss the impact of America's deteriorating global image on the U.S. economy. As a Representative of coastal Massachusetts, where declining international travel and tourism is a local economic development issue—and as a member of the International Relations Committee, which grapples with our foreign policy, as well as the Judiciary Committee, which oversees our visa protocols—I was asked to address the summit. I sought to convey that the perception of America around the world has lasting consequences for us at home, and was pleased to see these themes highlighted in a June 1st column by Tom Friedman of the New York Times. His admonitions, like those of scores of business leaders at the summit, are serious and disturbing—and I commend the Friedman column to my congressional colleagues.

[From the New York Times, June 1, 2005]

AMERICA'S DNA

(By Thomas L. Friedman)

A few years ago my youngest daughter participated in the National History Day program for eighth graders. The question that year was "turning points" in history, and schoolchildren across the land were invited to submit a research project that illuminated any turning point in history. My daughter's project was "How Sputnik Led to the Internet." It traced how we reacted to the Russian launch of Sputnik by better networking our scientific research centers and how those early, crude networks spread and eventually were woven into the Internet. The subtext was how our reaction to one turning point unintentionally triggered another decades later.

I worry that 20 years from now some eighth grader will be doing her National History Day project on how America's reaction to 9/11 unintentionally led to an erosion of core elements of American identity. What sparks such dark thoughts on a trip from London to New Delhi?

In part it is the awful barriers that now surround the U.S. Embassy in London on Grosvenor Square. "They have these cages all around the embassy now, and these huge concrete blocks, and the whole message is: 'Go away!'" said Kate Jones, a British literary agent who often walks by there. "That is how people think of America now, and it's a really sad thing because that is not your country."

In part it was a conversation with friends in London, one a professor at Oxford, another an investment banker, both of whom spoke about the hassles, fingerprinting, paperwork and costs that they, pro-American professionals, now must go through to get a visa to the U.S.

In part it was a recent chat with the folks at Intel about the obstacles they met trying to get visas for Muslim youths from Pakistan and South Africa who were finalists for this year's Intel science contest. And in part it was a conversation with M.I.T. scientists about the new restrictions on Pentagon research contracts—in terms of the nationalities of the researchers who could be involved

and the secrecy required—that were constricting their ability to do cutting-edge work in some areas and forcing intellectual capital offshore. The advisory committee of the World Wide Web recently shifted its semiannual meeting from Boston to Montreal so as not to put members through the hassle of getting visas to the U.S.

The other day I went to see the play "Billy Elliot" in London. During intermission, a man approached me and asked, "Are you Mr. Friedman?" When I said yes, he introduced himself—Emad Tinawi, a Syrian-American working for Booz Allen. He told me that while he disagreed with some things I wrote, there was one column he still keeps. "It was the one called, 'Where Birds Don't Fly,'" he said.

I remembered writing that headline, but I couldn't remember the column. Then he reminded me: It was about the new post-9/11 U.S. Consulate in Istanbul, which looks exactly like a maximum-security prison, so much so that a captured Turkish terrorist said that while his pals considered bombing it, they concluded that the place was so secure that even birds couldn't fly there. Mr. Tinawi and I then swapped impressions about the corrosive impact such security restrictions were having on foreigners' perceptions of America.

In New Delhi, the Indian writer Gurcharan Das remarked to me that with each visit to the U.S. lately, he has been forced by border officials to explain why he is coming to America. They "make you feel so unwanted now," said Mr. Das. America was a country "that was always reinventing itself," he added, because it was a country that always welcomed "all kinds of oddballs" and had "this wonderful spirit of openness." American openness has always been an inspiration for the whole world, he concluded. "If you go dark, the world goes dark."

Bottom line: We urgently need a national commission to look at all the little changes we have made in response to 9/11—from visa policies to research funding, to the way we've sealed off our federal buildings, to legal rulings around prisoners of war—and ask this question: While no single change is decisive, could it all add up in a way so that 20 years from now we will discover that some of America's cultural and legal essence—our DNA as a nation—has become badly deformed or mutated?

This would be a tragedy for us and for the world. Because, as I've argued, where birds don't fly, people don't mix, ideas don't get sparked, friendships don't get forged, stereotypes don't get broken, and freedom doesn't ring.

TRIBUTE TO REGINALD H.
BOWMAN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reginald H. Bowman for his outstanding community service and activism.

Reginald H. Bowman is a well-known community activist with more than 30 years in the Ocean Hill-Brownsville neighborhood. Known as a "Street Corner" activist who has been on the front line in every movement, since the late Rev. Milton Galamison boycotted the NYC public schools. He has led numerous civic demonstrations with grassroots activists on various civil rights issues, including schools, jails, housing, transportation, and economic development.

Mr. Bowman is a product of the New York City Public Schools and the Upward Bound Program created by the civil rights leaders, such as Dr. C.T. Vivian and Dr. Bernard Lafayette. He also attended the New York City University System under the SEEK Program. Since moving to the Brownsville community, he has served with distinction on Community Board 16 and co-founded the Business and Community Coalition to Save Brownsville.

Mr. Bowman is also an 11-year member of Community School Board 23, most notably as its President from 1999 to the present. Under Mr. Bowman's leadership, the School District launched a comprehensive strategy of sixteen directives, entitled "Creating a National Model of Urban Education." These initiatives improved academic performance in the district, led to the removal of all but one school from the SURR list, the building of Teachers High School, the creation of the P.S. 156/Gifted Middle School Project, and the removal of Community School District 23 from the Chancellor's Districts in Need of Improvement list.

He is also presently the Chairman of the Council of Presidents of Brooklyn East and the 1st Vice President of the City-wide Council of the New York City Housing Authority. His innovative approach to strategic planning and framing issues in context for effective civic action, led to paving the road in the Brooklyn East public housing community, for access to cable television, the Task Force Initiatives framework, and more access to Section 3 Jobs. These initiatives also help to frame the speedy response to resident issues and are helping to reposition and put a human face on the Public Housing residents of New York City.

Currently, Mr. Bowman is on the staff of U.S. Congressman MAJOR R. OWENS. He has also served as an inspirational founder and leader of a variety of groups and organizations. As a result, he is regarded as an "authentic grassroots community activist and a servant of the community." In addition, Mr. Bowman has been married to Jenny Ortiz-Bowman for 23 years and is the proud father of six children and grandfather of four. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Reginald Bowman's accomplishments and commitment to his community are more than worthy of our recognition today.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MAY YING LY

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate May Ying Ly, Executive Director of the Hmong Women's Heritage Association in Sacramento, California. Ms. Ly was recently selected from a field nearly 700 nominees to receive one of just 10 Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership Program awards. As part of the award, she will receive funding to continue her work helping Hmong refugees from Laos access health care and adapt to life in this country.

Ms. Ly's story is one of courage and dedication to her community. After she and her family escaped the communist regime in Laos, they first lived in poverty in a Thai refugee

camp, and later worked to bridge the vast cultural divide that confronts Hmong refugees as they attempt to adjust to life in the United States.

Breaking with the traditional, domestic role assigned to Hmong women, Ms. Ly attended college and then worked as a Human Services Specialist for Sacramento County. Seeking a broader platform to help her community, she founded the Hmong Women's Heritage Association; providing Hmong families with culturally appropriate health and social services—including health plan enrollment assistance. Further through collaboration with several media organizations, Ms. Ly drew attention to the physical and mental health problems affecting traumatized Hmong newcomers.

Given the patriarchal structure of Hmong society, she has often faced stiff resistance to her activities from within her own community. The Hmong traditionally believe that all family problems should be handled within the family and clan; however, most family and clan members lack the appropriate prevention and intervention skills necessary to intervene in some chronic and critical cases.

In order to reach Hmong refugees while still respecting traditional values, Ms. Ly established a "clan advisory council," training its members to understand the mediation principles of this country and merging those with traditional advice and interventions of Hmong elders to assist families with crises.

With the funds from this award, Ms. Ly will continue to provide mental health services, send her staff to college and graduate school, and to expand the activities of her advisory council of Hmong clan leaders.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize May Ying for this award, and commend her for her courage and ingenuity as she helps Hmong refugees and immigrants access the health care they desperately need.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "REPAIRING YOUNG WOMEN'S LIVES AROUND THE WORLD ACT"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I, along with Representatives CROWLEY and RUSH, am reintroducing the "Repairing Young Women's Lives Around the World Act," which would ensure that the entire \$34 million U.S. contribution to UNFPA would be dedicated to the prevention, repair and treatment of obstetric fistula.

Obstetric fistula is a devastating condition that results when young adolescent girls are left to deliver their babies unassisted or with limited medical intervention. After several days of painful labor, the baby is delivered stillborn and the young mother's insides are literally ripped apart leaving tears or fistulas in her rectum and bladder. Without medical treatment, these young girls are relegated to a life of shame and misery as they are no longer able to control their bodily functions and are left unable to have another child. They are almost always abandoned by their husbands and shunned by their families. About two million women suffer this condition worldwide.

The good news is that fistula is preventable and treatable. A preventive Caesarean section

costs a mere \$60. Surgery to repair fistula has a 90 percent success rate even after a woman has had the condition for several years. Once cured, a woman can reclaim her life.

Since its launch in 2003, the UNFPA-led Campaign to End Fistula has grown remarkably to include more than thirty countries. The Campaign works to prevent fistula from occurring, treat women who are affected, and support women after surgery. It is imperative that we in Congress support these efforts to eradicate the devastating condition of obstetric fistula.

A TRIBUTE TO LYNN MARTIN BROWN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lynn Martin Brown for pivotal work in the community.

A native New Yorker, Lynn Brown has spent much of her professional life serving underprivileged communities. She has worked tirelessly at Healthfirst to secure jobs and comprehensive health insurance for many children and adults who would have otherwise gone without.

Recently, Ms. Brown helped sponsor several basketball tournaments for underprivileged youth, providing equipment and uniforms. She worked in Brooklyn correctional facilities to provide health insurance to families of inmates. She created a much-appreciated Mother's/Father's Day Family Photography Event at Interfaith Medical Center, and continues to use her creativity to brighten the lives of others.

Lynn Brown is the recipient of many awards, and serves on numerous community boards. In 2004, she was awarded "Woman of the Year" by Senator John L. Sampson Esq., for her outstanding humanitarian efforts, and exemplary service to the community and city at large. She is a board member for the Five Towns YMCA, enforcing the mission: to put Christian principles into practice through programs that build healthy spirits, mind and body for all.

Ms. Brown is a member of a women's group: Sister to Sister-In-Law, a group where women help other women by assisting them in literacy instruction, legal and childcare referrals. She was also honored by the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce as a Visionary 2004. Ms. Brown is also a member of the Women's Caucus for Congressman Edolphus Towns.

As a member of Berean Missionary Baptist Church, Ms. Brown assists in special events and annual fundraisers. She works tirelessly in the community and remains an advocate for her own children. Lynn Brown is a mother of two girls Aurelia and Kayse, and is even raising her niece Navasia. She has also found the time to continue her education at the College of New Rochelle, where she is majoring in Human Psychology.

Ms. Brown's life's work is to analyze and understand humanity in order to build strong families and communities, and inspire confidence in children. As a result, Mr. Speaker, we proudly recognize her today.

A TRIBUTE TO JANE ZUCKERMAN

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary contributions of Jane Zuckerman, the Executive Director of Temple Israel of Hollywood. Jane is being honored for her 18 years of dedicated service to our community at Temple Israel's Annual Gala on June 11, 2005.

Jane began her impressive career at Temple Israel in 1986 when she served as the Temple's Director of Early Childhood Education. During her tenure, the student population grew from 40 to 115 children with the addition of extended hours for working parents. Jane brought the now popular Parent and Me, TOT Shabbat and Toddler Seder Program to the Temple.

In 1997, Jane was appointed the Temple's Executive Director. She blended her love of children with her keen fiscal management and marketing abilities in her new position. A congregant once said, "Every time I come into the building, Jane is there like a lovely hostess, creating a certain atmosphere of friendliness and welcome."

In her role as chief administrative officer of the Temple, she is responsible for the day-to-day management of its fiscal and administrative affairs as well as the physical plant and security. Jane also spearheads the marketing, membership and fundraising activities of the Temple.

In fall 2004, Jane served as co-chair of the National Association of Temple Administrator's annual convention and has been a guest speaker and presenter on the subject of synagogue management at the University of Judaism and the Women's Rabbinic Network's annual meeting.

Our community owes Jane a debt of gratitude for her tremendous dedication to Temple Israel of Hollywood. Her achievements and record of accomplishments are truly outstanding. I ask my colleagues to join me and Temple Israel of Hollywood in extending our appreciation for her contributions.

A TRIBUTE TO SHERRY FREDMAN

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 8, 2005

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary contributions of Sherry Fredman, the Nursery School Principal at Temple Israel of Hollywood. Sherry is being honored for her ten years of dedicated service to our community at Temple Israel's Annual Gala on June 11, 2005.

Sherry began her impressive career at Temple Israel in 1995 when she was recruited to teach at the Temple Israel Day School. Two years later, Sherry became the Day School's Resource Coordinator. In this capacity, she served as the administrative designee and After School Enrichment Coordinator. Sherry developed and created Temple Israel's sum-

mer "Camp Simcha" which she directed in its initial years to great success. In her many-faceted role in the Day School, Sherry incorporated enrichment and remediation within the general studies of the curricula at the school.

Sherry's love of children and enthusiasm for her community has translated into a significant growth of the school in many exciting ways. She has a strong background and expertise in early childhood development as well as strong marketing and administrative talents.

She has expanded the number of classrooms during her tenure and has incorporated a successful afternoon track at the school. Under her direction, the Saturday morning TOT Shabbat service has grown to standing room only for the grandparents, parents and children who eagerly participate. Sherry has also expanded the parenting education center. Next year, enrollment in the school is expected to grow to 156 students with 100 more on the waiting list.

Sherry is a member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) as well as a board member and recording secretary of the Association for Early Jewish Education (AEJE) and the Early Childhood Director's Organization.

Our community owes Sherry a debt of gratitude for her tremendous dedication to Temple Israel of Hollywood and particularly its children. Her achievements and record of accomplishments are truly outstanding. I ask my colleagues to join me and Temple Israel of Hollywood in extending our appreciation for her contributions.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Wednesday, June 8, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 9

9:30 a.m.

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-226

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 582, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the desegregation of the Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, and the nominations of Ben S. Bernanke, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Council of Economic Advisers, and Brian D. Montgomery, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and Federal Housing Commissioner.

SD-538

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine protecting America's pensions plans from fraud.

SD-430

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine pending health care related legislation.

SR-418

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine the current economic outlook.

2118 RHOB

10:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Richard J. Griffin, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, and to have the rank of Ambassador, and Henrietta Holsman Fore, of Nevada, to be Under Secretary of State for Management.

SD-419

11 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine general aviation (GA) security, the Transportation Security Administration's proposed plan to reopen Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport to GA operations, and to examine the security procedures followed during the recent air incursion that caused the emer-

gency evacuation of the White House and the U.S. Capitol buildings.

SR-253

2 p.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Walter Lukken, of Indiana, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Reuben Jeffery III, of the District of Columbia, to be Commissioner and Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

SR-328A

Appropriations

Business meeting to markup H.R. 2361, making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and to consider 302 (b) subcommittee allocations of budget outlays and new budget authority allocated to the committee in H. Con. Res. 95, establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2006, revising appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2005, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 through 2010.

SD-106

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Bioterrorism and Public Health Preparedness Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine bringing promising medical countermeasures to bioshield.

SD-430

2:30 p.m.

Foreign Relations

Western Hemisphere, Peace Corps and Narcotics Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Western Hemisphere initiative, regarding safety and convenience in cross-border travel.

SH-216

3 p.m.

Conferees

Meeting of conferees on H.R. 3, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs.

2167 RHOB

JUNE 14

10 a.m.

Appropriations

Homeland Security Subcommittee

Business meeting to markup H.R. 2360, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006.

S-128, Capitol

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Oversight of Government Management, the Federal Workforce, and the District of Columbia Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Strategy Targeting Organized Piracy (STOP!) initiative, established to stop trade in pirated and counterfeit goods, focusing on activities undertaken by STOP! to date, its effectiveness in coordinating federal government efforts to combat intellectual property theft at home and abroad, and the federal government's ability to recruit, train and retain the workforce necessary to implement STOP!, also the Administration's long-term strategic plan for STOP! and ways the initiative assists small business protect its intellectual property rights.

SD-562

Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 206, to designate the Ice Age Floods National Geologic Trail, S. 556, to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to jointly conduct a study of certain land adjacent to the Walnut Canyon National Monument in the State of Arizona, S. 588, to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to jointly conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Arizona Trail as a national scenic trail or a national historic trail, and S. 955, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of including in the National Park System certain sites in Williamson County, Tennessee, relating to the Battle of Franklin.

SD-366

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Securities and Investment Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the role of financial markets in social security.

SD-538

2 p.m.

Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the benefits and future developments in agriculture and food biotechnology.

SR-328A

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine accountability and results in Federal budgeting, focusing on the specific metrics and tools used by the Office of Management and Budget to determine the effectiveness of Federal programs, the advantages and disadvantages of using these metrics, and how information provided by these metrics is being used to increase effectiveness and accountability in Federal budgeting.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

Appropriations

Energy and Water, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

Business meeting to markup H.R. 2419, making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006.

SD-138

Judiciary

Intellectual Property Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine injunctions and damages relating to patent law reform.

SD-226

Intelligence

Closed business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SH-219

JUNE 15

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine youth suicide prevention.

SR-485

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine issues relating to detainees.

SD-226

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

National Ocean Policy Study Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine coral reef ballast water.

SR-253

9:50 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Lester M. Crawford, of Maryland, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services.

SD-430

10 a.m.

Budget

To hold hearings to examine current financial condition and potential risks relating to solvency of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

SD-608

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine if the Federal government is doing enough to secure chemical facilities.

SD-562

2:30 p.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Linda M. Springer, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management, Laura A. Cordero, to be Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, and A. Noel Anketell Kramer, to be Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

SD-562

Intelligence

Closed briefing regarding intelligence matters.

SH-219

3 p.m.

Aging

To hold hearings to examine the impact of soaring energy costs on the elderly.

SH-216

JUNE 16

9:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine stabilization and reconstruction regarding building peace in a hostile environment.

SD-419

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Indian education.

SR-485

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Investigations Subcommittee

To resume hearings to examine tax delinquency problems with Federal contractors.

SD-562

10 a.m.

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine meeting the housing and service needs of seniors.

SD-538

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine Federal legislative solutions to data breach and identity theft.

SR-253

2 p.m.

Appropriations

Business meeting to markup H.R. 2360, making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and

H.R. 2419, making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006.

SD-106

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of William Alan Jeffrey, of Virginia, to be Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and Israel Hernandez, of Texas, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service, both of the Department of Commerce, Ashok G. Kaveeshwar, of Maryland, to be Administrator of the Research and Innovative Technology Administration, Department of Transportation, and Edmund S. Hawley, of California, to be Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Transportation Security Administration.

SR-253

3 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Janice B. Gardner, of Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Intelligence and Analysis.

SDG-50

JUNE 21

Time to be announced

Appropriations

Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee

Business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for the Department of Agriculture.

Room to be announced

Appropriations

Legislative Branch Subcommittee

Business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for the Legislative Branch.

Room to be announced

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Fisheries and Coast Guard Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine the Coast Guard's revised deepwater implementation plan.

SR-253

2:30 p.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Education and Early Childhood Development Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine issues relating to American history.

SD-430

JUNE 22

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the In Re Tribal Lobbying Matters, Et Al.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine telecom mergers.

SR-253

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-430

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Aviation Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine financial stability of airlines.

SR-253

JUNE 23

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SR-253

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine Family Medical Leave Act.

SD-430

2 p.m.

Appropriations

Business meeting to markup proposed legislation making appropriations for the Department of Agriculture, and proposed legislation making appropriations for the Legislative Branch.

SD-106

JUNE 28

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Global Climate Change and Impacts Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine coastal impacts.

SR-253

JUNE 29

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine Spectrum-DTV.

SR-253

2:30 p.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Disaster Prevention and Prediction Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine national weather service-severe weather.

SR-253

JUNE 30

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Technology, Innovation, and Competitiveness Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine e-health initiatives.

SR-253

SEPTEMBER 20

10 a.m.

Veterans' Affairs

To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion.

345 CHOB

POSTPONEMENTS

JUNE 14

9:30 a.m.

Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

SR-485